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Hussein Chalan explores displacement and identify through the medium of clothes.



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Eileen Chang's *Love in a Fallen City* bring old Shanghai to the Capital Theater.

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Chinese children benefit from world-class tennis coaching.

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Chinese workers produce for Disney in 'oppressive' conditions

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Olympic skating gold medalist Yang Yang with local children. She met on a charity visit to Addis Ababa of Ethiopia.

Xinhua Photo

Medicine from killer drugs company found in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

More than 10,000 boxes of medicine produced by killer drugs company Qiqihar No.2 Pharmaceutical have been found in 112 Beijing hospitals.

Inspectors from the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau have sealed the boxes and will examine the contents.

Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical manufactured and sold a fake drug, Armillarisin A, that has led to the deaths of at least nine people in the last two weeks.

Beijing Youan Hospital is the only medical facility here that purchased the fake drug but fortunately they had not begun to use it.

The Third Hospital, linked to the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangdong Province, where the scandal first came to light, has identified 64 people who were prescribed the fake medicine. Eighteen people have died after using the drug. Liao Xinbo, vice-director of the Guangdong Provincial Department of Health, said nine had died as a direct result of using Armillarisin A and the other nine may have died of other causes.

Cao Yongwen, director of Qiqihar's municipal Food and Drug Administration said last week that the main ingredient of the fake medicine, Armillarisin A, should have been propylene glycol, but Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical had used the much cheaper diglycol instead. Five suspects involved in the

scandal have been taken to Guangdong Province by police for further questioning.

As well as the fake Armillarisin A, four other kinds of fake medicine produced by the company were found when Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical in Heilongjiang Province was shut down. China's State Food and Drug Administration has started a nationwide campaign to recall millions of doses of the fake medicine that have been distributed across the country.

Beijing venue for 2007 NFL preseason game

By Qiu Jiaoning

The National Football League (NFL) will hold its pre-season game in Beijing on August 8, 2007, one year before the Olympics are staged here, according to Zhang Heng, negotiating representative of Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCGO).

"The game will take place at Beijing Works' Sports Complex, which BOCGO will adapt arena to suit American football," said Zhang. American football is played by two opposing teams of 11. The field

measures 91.4m by 48.8m and is marked off by latitudinal stripes every 4.57m.

BOCGO Executive Vice-President and Secretary-General Wang Wei has met with Senior Vice President of International Activities Mark Waller of NFL. The two sides discussed the NFL preseason game in Beijing in 2007 and talked about the work program. The confirmed result finally came out on Tuesday when Zhang received the formal document from the NFL. "China's NFL fans will have the pleasure of witnessing legendary two

star teams," said Zhang.

"In view of NBA's successful operation experience in China, we are confident we can make NFL's preseason game a more successful one," he said.

Elaine Wang, PR manager of Shanghai-based Zou Marketing - NFL's China Agency, said, "The NFL regards China as a new frontier. The NFL needs to penetrate and they will try to promote American football in China, especially among the youth."

As the biggest and most popular sports organization in the

USA, the 32-team NFL is the most popular and only professional American football league. Its championship game, the Super Bowl, is watched by nearly half of US television households, and is also televised in over 150 other countries. The NFL has played exhibition games outside the United States regularly since 1986. American football, known in North America simply as football, is a competitive team sport. The object of the game is to advance the football towards the opposing team's end zone and score points.

Highest oil price hike for 3 years

By Chu Meng

The Chinese government raised the price of gasoline, diesel and aviation kerosene by 500 yuan (62.4 US dollars) per ton on Wednesday.

It is the highest of nine oil price hikes since July 2003 with gasoline and diesel going up by over 10 percent. The current retail price of 93 gasoline is 5.09 yuan per liter, 0.44 yuan higher than two months ago.

"Higher prices on oil products will encourage efficiency," said Zhang Guobao, vice-chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) at an international seminar titled 'Energy Security: China and the World'.

Niu Li, an economist with the State Information Center, said the price hike was in line with the policy to reduce the gap between international and domestic prices and connect domestic price fluctuations to those of international crude oil.

Zhang also said that despite soaring crude oil prices, the NDRC, which regulates domestic prices according to changes on the world market, had kept domestic prices relatively low, resulting in losses for processors and consumer waste.

'From Monet to Picasso' on show

By Han Manman

A world famous painting exhibition called 'From Monet to Picasso' will open today at the Millennium World Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument in Beijing.

The exhibition features 60 paintings and sculptures by artists ranging from Pierre Bonnard and Paul Cezanne to Pablo Picasso and Vincent Van Gogh. The paintings are on loan from the Cleveland Museum of Art, one of the best-known galleries in the United States. Organizers say they represent "the finest selection of modern European masterpieces ever to be shown in China".

The exhibition is worth an estimated US\$1 billion - making it the most expensive overseas exhibition ever held in China.



Mr. Annan speaks to Chinese students at Peking University.

UN Secretary-General visits China for the last time

By Chen Shasha

Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations came to Beijing University on Tuesday (May 23) during his last visit of China as head of the UN. He spent an hour chatting to students about everything from the reform of the UN and environmental protection to Asia's role in the world.

Annan told the students that they would shape the world of the future and called on them to take a more active part in international affairs and to

work towards greater cooperation between countries.

"What happens in one country affects another," he said. "Epidemics, environmental degradation, nuclear proliferation and terrorism challenge us all."

Zhang Xin, a member of the student Environment Protection Association, agreed with what the Secretary-General had to say. Zhang Xin asked Annan how the sandstorms that have swept across northeastern China in the last

few months could be prevented from becoming a global disaster. The UN chief suggested that people all over the world should take action. He gave an example of when he once planted two trees with his wife in a country where women were forbidden to plant trees. A year later the tree planted by his wife had grown tall but his one was still small. "I was told that I had been punished for letting my wife plant a tree in that country," laughed Annan.

Subway set for multi-million yuan face-lift

By Chu Meng

Faced with traffic and pollution problems in the run-up to the 2008 Summer Olympics, Beijing Municipal and Beijing Subway Corporation are forking out around 820 million yuan on 144 brand new trains and a range of emergency equipment.

According to Xie Zhengguan, general manager of the corporation, all the new trains will be ready for the Olympics in 2008. A specially designed 'quiet' train that generates no more than 65 decibels of sound will also come

on line by the start of the games.

"The capacity of the trains we currently have, which consist of six carriages, is around 1,080 passengers," said Xie. "After the renovation, the capacity will increase to about 1,420 and all the trains will be up-to-date." The frequency of trains will also be increased with trains arriving every two minutes rather than every three and a half minutes, as they do currently.

Beijing Subway, along with development of underground and open-air rail lines, has

recently invested an extra nine million yuan into renovating the underground hardware. Of the total investment, 5.2 million yuan has been spent on emergency respirators; 595,000 yuan on explosion proof material for all stations along line one and the loop line. Meanwhile, the evacuation passages in some old and run-down stations have been adjusted and improved. New improvements have also been made to the emergency lighting installations and the evacuation signs in stations.

Cancer vaccine could be approved in China

By Chen Shasha

A vaccine against viruses that cause cervical cancer will go on the market in America next month and is waiting to be approved in China, according to the China Cancer Research Foundation (CCRF).

Every year nearly 500,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. Twenty percent of the cases are in China. Experts believe the new vaccine could slash the number of cervical cancer deaths by more than two-thirds globally.

According to the Food and Drug Administration advisory committee, the new drug protects against the two types of human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus believed to be responsible for around 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. The vaccine also protects against two other virus types that cause 90 percent of genital wart cases. All four virus types are sexually transmitted.

"The vaccine would work best on girls aged from nine to 26," said Meng Xiangzhu, director of CCRF. But the cost of the vaccine is around \$300 to \$500, which could prevent widespread use.



Police helicopters on show at Beijing Exhibition Center.

Xinhua Photos

'Air police' to patrol Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

'Air police' will patrol the skies above Beijing next year as the city cranks up security in the run-up to the Olympics.

Two helipads have been set on the top of Technology Building of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau in preparation for the citywide patrols.

The two helipads are 24 meters in diameter. By the end of 2007, Beijing's air police will patrol and execute anti-terrorism operations over the city.

At this Tuesday's China International Exhibition of Police Technologies and Equipment at Beijing Exhibition Center, 10 helicopter manufacturers from 21 different countries showed off their best products to Beijing police.

"Our helicopters are very similar to foreign helicopters but they are much cheaper. We're here to sell our products so they can be used during the 2008 Olympics," said one member of staff from Ha Fei Motor, a domestic company.

A staff from the bureau confirmed at the exhibition that the helicopters would be used for security during the Beijing Olympics. More helipads will be built around the competition venues.

Chinese workers produce for Disney in 'oppressive' conditions

By Chu Meng

"There is blood on this book," said Charles Kernaghan, holding up a copy of a Disney-published children's book made in China for the entertainment giant.

The US-based National Labor Committee (NLC), an anti-sweatshop advocacy group of which Kernaghan is director, has released a videotape purportedly showing that two Chinese factories producing children's books for The Walt Disney Company operate under unsafe conditions.

The NLC has previously exposed labor abuses at suppliers producing apparel for Kathie Lee Gifford's clothing line.

Kernaghan showed a press conference 11 minutes of video footage of interviews with workers from two Chinese factories.

The workers, their faces hidden, said they have been injured using unsafe equipment, and showed the camera bandaged fingers and cut hands.

The factories are in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. The video was filmed by a Hong Kong-based group called Students and Academics against Corporate Misbehavior, and passed on to the NLC.

The video shows workers describing the oppressive conditions under which they are forced to work, including unbearable heat, long hours and compulsory unpaid overtime. Still images show factory machinery, which the workers describe as lacking basic safety features. One female worker holds up the book Haunted Halloween, which fea-

tures Disney favorite Mickey Mouse, as she describes the dangers of the machines that press and glue its binding.

Workers said that they regularly work 16-hour days, seven days a week, during peak production times - despite Chinese labor laws that establish a maximum 49-hour workweek. They are also forced to pay the management 'deposits' and 'entrance fees' just to be able to work; at one factory, workers lose their deposit if they do not stay at the factory for at least two years.

Kernaghan called for Disney to release the names of all of its supplier factories in China and to make their monitoring system more open to review, and to assist investigation.

Contacted for comment,

Disney spokesman Greg Foster said Monday he had not seen the tape, but that Disney, "takes claims such as those raised today by the NLC very seriously."

In a written statement, Disney said, "We have a strong International Labor Standards Code of Conduct for Manufacturers and conduct regular social compliance audits of the independently-run factories that produce Disney branded merchandise. The Walt Disney Company has contacted Verite, a non-profit social auditing and training firm, to conduct an investigation of the claims regarding the factories."

Both Kernaghan and the Chinese workers maintain, however, that the supplier factories never take action until prompted by international pressure.

Undead roam free in Chaoyang Park

By Lucky Zhang

The Mysterious Egypt theme park, based on the movies The Mummy and The Mummy Returns, opens today at Chaoyang Park and runs till the end of October.

The park includes a video broadcasting area where people can see how the movie The Mummy Returns was made. In the maze area, visitors are required to walk in a line with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them and will see mummies, walls full of beetles, skulls and insects, and meet 'real life' mummies, played by the park's staff.

In the retail and dining areas, visitors can participate in traditional Egyptian games, such as Tarot, 'divine cats', and archery, in order to win Egyptian-styled toys. In addition, they can buy traditional Egyptian souvenirs and taste traditional Egyptian foods.

The project The Mummy Returns was first produced by Universal Studios, Hollywood, in 2004. The theme park has traveled to Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Singapore, and Australia and was popular there. Last year, it visited Shanghai and was well received.

This time, the Savoni Art Consulting Inc brought the park to Beijing. The sponsors are Chaoyang Park and Beijing Teddy Advertisement Company, with the support of the tourism office of the Egyptian Embassy in China.

Libraries on wheels for villagers

By Jiang Xubo

Residents on Beijing's outskirts now have easy access to books from the Capital Library thanks to the new 'libraries on wheels' program.

The buses, each with around 2,500 books, will visit the 10 counties and districts in the capital's outskirts from Monday to Friday once every one to three months. Every bus, furnished with benches and tables, can hold some 15 to 20 readers during its visits, which will last several hours.

Books can be read on the buses, or they can be brought home for about one to three months.

Students from common schools and special education schools, farmers and migrant workers are expected to benefit from the program.

"It was very hard for residents in remote villages to have access to books. And people could only borrow books from their own county libraries, which can hardly afford the latest books. Libraries on wheels can now send books to them both from the Capital Library and county libraries and make it easier for books to circulate between counties," said Zhao Xuefeng, director of the program.

Libraries in seven out of the total of 10 counties around the capital have signed up to take part in the book-sharing program.

The buses will visit the outskirts about 300 times every year and bring a total of about 100,000 books to readers there within this year. Readers can order books in advance through county libraries or some 90 service agents set up by the Capital Library across the city.

Books on practical agriculture skills, helpful tools on the road to financial success, are popular with farmers.

"What we are trying to do is just making the buses go and letting the books get out there," said Zhao.



Chinese workers make the last touches to sand sculptures displayed for the upcoming Xinjiang International Tourism Festival and Turpan Grape Festival in Kumutag Desert in Shanshan County of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The statue is Peng Jiamu, the scientist who went missing in the desert in 1978. IC Photo

Chinese language stats revealed

By Lucky Zhang

Chinese language learning is getting more popular all over the world. The report says that around 40 million foreigners were learning Chinese last year, the number of foreigners learning Chinese will reach 100 million by 2010, according to a report released by Ministry of Education.

The report also revealed that a lot of Chinese characters have

begun to disappear from people's daily lives because of lack of use, such as some traditional Chinese characters, dialect characters and characters used as old computation units.

In contrast, Internet symbols are on the increase. People are more and more likely to use simple characters, letters or numbers to express themselves. For example, the letter 'e' is used to make something sound more

disgusting; the number 555' is used to express sadness; the number '88', '886' and letters 'CU' are used instead of 'bye-bye' and 'see you.'

While these newly created symbols appear, a lot of Chinese minority languages are disappearing. In China, there are more than 100 minority languages. Half of them are in decline and some of them are rarely used and are facing extinction.

Brief News

Economic criminal suspects repatriated

China had 53 suspects of economic crimes repatriated from abroad last year, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

New outbreak of bird flu

A new outbreak of H5N1 bird flu among migratory birds has been confirmed in western Qin-

ghai province and Tibet Autonomous Region, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Higher GDP growth

The country's economy grew 10.3 percent in the first quarter of this year, according to a circular released Tuesday by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Exchange program for

French and Chinese youths
France and China launched

an exchange program that will allow a total of 800 young people to visit to each other's country within the year.

Five trapped miners dead

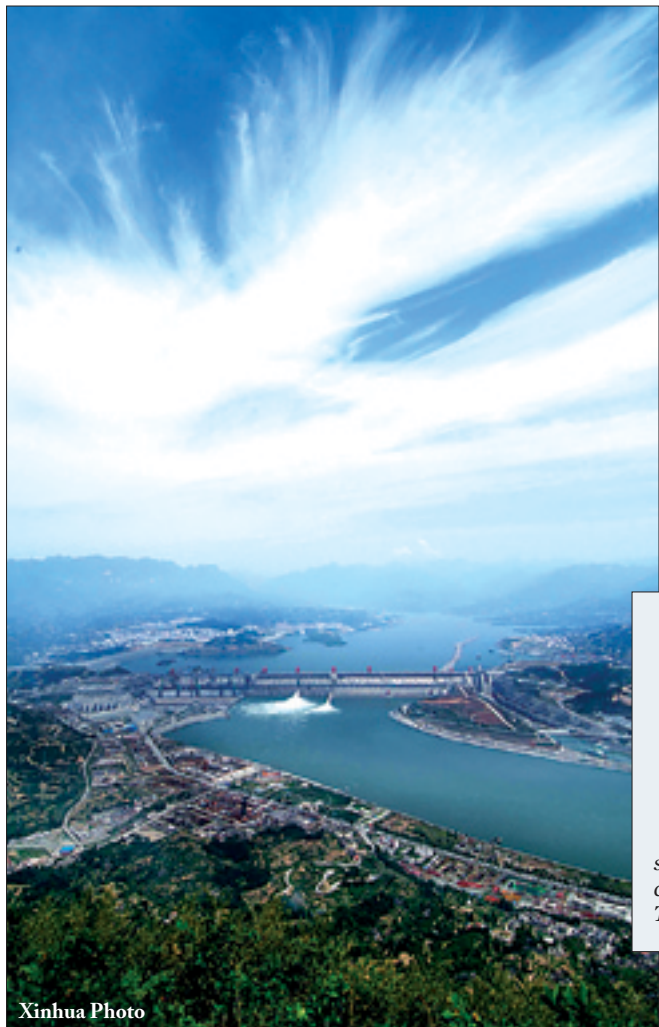
All five miners trapped in a collapsed coal mine in Fangshan District, in the southwestern outskirts of the capital, have been confirmed dead, according to the Beijing Municipal Work Safety Bureau.

More star hotels for Olympic Games

The capital will build 110 star hotels, with a majority of them targeting high-end guests, to cope with the demand for accommodation during the 2008 Olympic Games, according to Du Jiang, director of the city's Tourism Bureau.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Completion of Three Gorges Dam marks milestone for China



Xinhua Photo

Beijing, May 24 (AFP) – After 13 years of immense physical effort and technical ingenuity, China put the finishing touches to its controversial Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydro-power project.

The 2,309 meter long, 185 meter high block of concrete across the Yangtze River is meant to control floods and generate electricity for a power-hungry nation, but for many Chinese it is about much more than that.

"The Three Gorges dam is excellent proof of what Chinese can accomplish," said Cao Guangjing, vice president of the China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Company. "This project will serve to inspire the

Chinese people."

In the early 20th century, Sun Yat-sen, the founder of modern China, waxed lyrical about creating electricity that would be the equivalent of the strength of hundreds of millions of men.

Mao Zedong, the founder of communist China, wrote a poem hailing a dam that would some time in the future 'strike the goddess of the Three Gorges with the miracles of the modern world'.

Opponents also see damage to the environment, ruin to China's heritage and misery to local residents forced from their homes for the project.

However, harnessing the power of China's mightiest rivers is a dream harbored by genera-

tions of Chinese.

With a capacity already equivalent to Itaipu on the border of Brazil and Paraguay, currently the world's largest operating hydro-electric dam, the Three Gorges will eventually overshadow all others.

One final benefit touted for the project is that it will elevate the Yangtze for hundreds of kilometers inland, allowing ocean-going vessels to travel as far as the enormous but little known metropolis of Chongqing.

This will, planners hope, help open up China's underdeveloped west, which has in many ways missed out on economic reforms largely because of its isolation from overseas markets.



Generally we publish a story that is of interest. We chose this story because the Three Gorges Dam is the larg-

Interview with the iafrica editor:

est hydro-power facility in the world and that makes it of interest to the whole world.

We have subscribed to the newswire AFP, but not to Reuters or AP. We chose to subscribe to AFP because of their stories and their competitive subscription rates.

We publish it due to the

environmental concerns raised, as well as for the interest from an innovative technological point of view.

Since the story was published on 18 May 2006, 167 people have read it. So there are people interested in it.

- Gideon Nieuwoudt, editor, www.iafrica.com

Beijing to curb 'luxury' water waste

Paris, May 25 (www.edie.net) – Beijing is stepping up measures to cut water waste with checks on water use in 'luxury' services such as car washes, golf courses and saunas, *Xinhua* reports.

Amounts of water used by the biggest consumers will be monitored, and fines up to US\$1,250 imposed on those 'luxury sector' companies that use more than their share.

The move is aimed at lessening the impacts of the worst drought Beijing has seen in seven years. Rainfall decreased by 72

percent over the last year, amounting to just nine millimeters in the past four months, or 13 percent of the Chinese national average.

The crackdown on car washes is the latest in a series of measures aimed at cutting water waste in the region, alongside water recycling and rainwater collection.

The Chinese government aims for water recycling in the capital to reach 360 million tonnes this year, with at least 300 car washes running on recycled water and 300 rain-

water collection devices soon to appear across the city.

While China is home to more than 20 percent of the world's population, it has just seven percent of the world's total water resources, a water crisis made worse by an accelerating economic growth.

Last week, premier Wen Jiabao pledged to take action against water shortages that affect large parts of China, including Beijing. More than 300 million people in China's rural regions are short of drinking water.



What the reporter says:

ference is that here the shortages are caused by the dry weather, while in China, pollution seems to be an important factor.

Water-saving measures in England include compulsory water meters, and special orders that forbid the use of water for non-essential purposes.

Regarding environmental problems, it's a

big country and a big question! – mainly, the problems of explosive economic growth that often seems to overlook air and water quality and the quality of life for citizens stand out.

So there is also a potential worsening of environmental problems in the future.

- Goska Romanowicz, www.edie.net

The water shortages in Beijing are all the more interesting to us, as we are experiencing a drought here in southern England. The main dif-

Gastronomic Michelin Delights

Hotel Kunlun, in partnership with the famed Le Cordon Bleu, is proud to announce a fabulously gastronomic French Food Promotion from 7 to 21 July 2006.

Michelin Star Chef Bernard Guilhaudin of Le Cordon Bleu Paris, and Master Pastry Chef Pierre Wolf, will demonstrate their skills through the 14th of July. Witness them prepare a nightly array of regional French dinners at the Summit Club, and exhibit their talents to industry experts and food enthusiasts during special cooking demonstrations.

For further details, kindly contact 6590 3388, extensions 8419 / 5195.

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(AFP Photo)

Lenovo hit by US government ban

months after Lenovo completed its US\$1.75 billion acquisition of IBM's PC division.

The department chose to install about 900 of the PCs on its secure network at home and at embassies around the world, according to documents released by Congressman Wolf.

But after angry objections from the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a bipartisan panel of experts appointed by Congress, the department opted this week to pull the computers from the network.

While welcoming the department's reversal, Congressman Wolf said the purchase of the 16,000 computers from the Chinese state-backed company was still troubling.

Lenovo rejects US security fears

Shanghai, May 23 (AFP) – Lenovo Group chairman Yang Yuanqing has branded a US government decision not to use his firm's computers over security concerns as unfair and deeply concerning.

"The attitude of the US government is very unfair to a company like Lenovo, which is totally based on market operations. We are deeply concerned," Yang was quoted by local Chinese media.

"Our products comply with CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States) and all sup-

pliers' requirements," Yang said.

Yang's comments came in response to the US State Department's decision last week to pull the plug on a controversial decision to install 16,000 computers made by Lenovo, a Chinese company, on its classified networks.

The State Department bowed to angry objections from the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a bipartisan panel of experts appointed by Congress, to review the deal that was signed in March.

Nokia's China headquarters

Helsinki, May 23 (Reuters) – Nokia will invest about 50 million euros (US\$64 million) in its China headquarters in Beijing.

The new headquarters will include R&D centers and a mobile phone manufacturing base. It will open in 2007, and eventually have over 2,000 staff.

China is the largest mobile phone market with 400 million subscribers.

Air China, Star Alliance ink deal

Beijing, May 23 (NDTV) – Air China, China's flag carrier, agreed to join the Star Alliance, which includes United Airlines and Germany's Lufthansa.

Members of such alliances share flight numbers and some facilities in an effort to appeal to more passengers.

Star Alliance is also inviting another Chinese carrier, Shanghai Airlines, to join in.

Chinese close to buying Millicom

Beijing, May 24 (UPI) – China Mobile Communications Corp. is near a US\$5.3 billion, all-cash deal to buy Luxembourg's Millicom International Cellular SA.

Millicom, listed on Nasdaq, runs mobile-telephone services in many of the poorest countries.

The buy-out is the first overseas acquisition by China Mobile, the world's largest cellular-phone service provider by number of subscribers.

Beijing to update subway trains

Beijing, May 24 (Gamesbids.com) – Beijing is to buy 84 new subway trains and update 60 old ones at about US\$100 million by May 2008.

The purchase is part of the improvement project of the No. 1 and No. 2 subway lines.

The new trains have special designs such as blind tracks for the handicapped, in preparation for the 2008 Paralympic Games.



Coming to China AFP Photo

Toyota to make 50,000 Camrys in China this year

Tokyo, May 23 (Bloomberg) – Toyota Motor said it is investing 3.82 billion yuan (US\$476 million) to make Camry sedans in China to boost its share in the world's third-largest market.

The company will make 50,000 Camrys this year. The company plans to eventually build up to 200,000 units, depending on demand.

China sets up Post Savings Bank

Shanghai, May 23 (Bloomberg News) – China approved a plan to reorganize the State Post Bureau by splitting off its banking component and creating one of the nation's largest lenders, according to a banking regulator.

The new bank, called the China Post Savings Bank, will specialize in "retail banking and intermediary services and serve the local community and rural areas with its extensive network," Cai Esheng, vice chairman of China Banking Regulatory Commission, said on Tuesday.

China's government is trying to split commercial businesses from government bodies to prevent corruption and fraud, as the nation fully opens its financial markets to overseas investors by the end of this year. China Post currently collects and delivers mail, takes deposits, issues stamps, sells policies for insurance companies and handles bill payments.

The banking regulator said last July that it would set up a post savings bank with 1.23 trillion yuan, or US\$153 billion, of deposits – 10 percent of the country's household savings – and that it would continue to offer financial services through 36,000 outlets after the breakup of the nation's postal bureau.

China Post started taking deposits in 1986. It has more than 352 billion yuan of assets, 260 million account holders and 70 million debit card holders, according to its Web site. The deposits are held by the central bank, the People's Bank of China. About two-thirds of China Post's outlets are located in rural areas.



Here I come!

The New York Stock Exchange is expanding to Europe by attempting to acquire the Paris-based pan-European Stock Exchange, Euronext, at a price of US\$10.2 billion. Pan-European Stock Exchange turned down a bid from Germany on May 23.

Xinhua Photo

China and Germany agree huge railroad project

Beijing, May 22 (International Herald Tribune) – China and Germany agreed Monday to work together to build 500 locomotives in a deal signed during Chancellor Angela Merkel's two-day visit to Beijing.

Siemens, China's Ministry of Railways and Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive signed an agreement Monday to build 500 locomotives. The deal could lead to further lucrative contracts for the German electronic engineering giant in China.

The president and chief execu-

tive officer of Siemens, Klaus Kleinfeld, said after the agreement was signed that the project could be worth as much as 1.2 billion euros, or about US\$1.5 billion.

Siemens also signed two equipment and service contracts worth a total of US\$174.5 million with two cellphone operators, China Mobile Communications and China United Telecommunications, the company said in a statement.

Other agreements covered arrangements to combat intellectual property theft in the textile

industry, financial cooperation and the development of high-speed rail networks.

Two-way trade between the two countries reached US\$63.2 billion last year according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, about a third of China's total trade with the European Union.

More than 1,800 German companies are operating in China, according to German government figures. Some of these companies have become some of China's biggest and fastest growing employers.

Vets' data theft not publicized for three weeks

By Michael Winter (USA Today)

CNN quotes a 'government source who has been briefed on the issue' as saying authorities waited three weeks before notifying the public about the theft of personal data on 26.5 million veterans. The data – the names, Social Security numbers and birth dates of every living veteran since 1975 – were 'on a laptop and external drive' stolen May 3 in 'an apparent random burglary' from the Montgomery County, Maryland, home of a Department of Veterans Affairs computer analyst, CNN reports.

Comments:

It is just a bit too odd of a coincidence to me that the VERY day this government employee somehow, without authorization, takes all this confidential information home, he/she just happens to gets burglarized???? What's up with that?

– Bewildered

This kind of information in this networked world is a weapon that can be used from anywhere on the globe. I left the service in 1976 after 18 months in the Asian theater, so if they start at the front of the list; I'm there.

– Mitch Miller Sgt USAF Ret Working for the government for 40+ years, I know the only reason we were told of the theft is that someone leaked it to the press and the Big Wigs had no choice.

– Bill

Show me. Just show me a reasonable set of logic of why the VA should have data on me for any reason. They have never contacted me nor I them. If they ever need data on me they can



Veterans: data exposed

Reuters Photo

get it from the US Navy that discharged me in 1985 - and then only if I pre-authorize them. THAT IS THE WAY IT SHOULD WORK.

– Dave from Missouri

I'm glad they waited three weeks. The burglar probably didn't know what was on the drive and it is long gone now. Hopefully no one will ever locate and use the information

– Desplin

Hard to believe that the VA allowed this 'trusted' employee to take the allegedly stolen data home to work on it. Where was his supervisor and the control methods to prevent something like this?

– Joe Morales

As a vet and knowing what security protocol is. I SMELL A RAT. How much money did the 'analyst' sell the info for and to who? He should be in a Federal

Jail until we know what really happened.

– Merlin

I am far less worried about the implications upon my credit and far more concerned that in this day and age of terrorism, a list of addresses and social security numbers of that many veterans is floating around out there in the criminal market for the highest bidder.

– Jackie, Centralia

Seems our home land security that has cost us our freedom didn't help us vets much.

We are only disabled and useless so why worry.

They will give this government clown back his job while the rest of us have to deal with the fact some jerk-off has our lives in their hands and our futures.

Thank you VA once more.

– lipservice

(By Jiang Xubo)

Yo ayi: get to the back of the bus!

By Jeremy Goldkorn

(www.danwei.org)

This is from the New York Times obituary for Rosa Parks:

On Montgomery buses, the first four rows were reserved for whites. The rear was for blacks, which made up more than 75 percent of the bus system's riders. Blacks could sit in the middle rows until those seats were needed by whites. Then the blacks had to move to seats in the rear, stand or, if there was no room, leave the bus.

Now in Shanghai? This is from the website of Shanghai Racquet Club and Apartments:

1. Ayis must present a valid Bus Pass on entering the bus on each journey, no pass = no ride.
2. Ayis will be requested to take up the rear seats of the bus.
3. Ayis will travel 'sub load' and are required to follow the

instructions of the bus driver if asked to vacate the bus to accommodate members.

Note: 'Ayi' means aunt, but is often used to refer to domestic workers and baby sitters. Shanghai Racquet Club and Apartments is a fully foreign-invested and foreign-managed up-scale community on the outskirts of Shanghai. Western homeowners account for over 90 percent of residents.

Comments:

That is unbelievable. Are Ayis sub-human now? Don't these people realize, without Ayis, their lives would not be so luxurious?!

– tian

My ayi was a local Shanghai woman. I never called her an ayi, and treated her with respect. As a result she went the extra mile for me and did the job the

best that she could.

– PC

I think this is fine. We are talking here about a PRIVATE transportation service operated by a PRIVATE company for its paying customers. It's not a public bus service and it's nothing to do with discrimination.

P.S. Bleeding-heart ayi sympathizers. It's a market economy in China now in case you hadn't noticed. There is supply, and there is demand, and there is a market for ayis.

If Ayi doesn't like being an ayi, then she can always get onto a bus and go straight back to the far corner of Anhui where she came; there are plenty of her fellow villagers busting to get out of there and into her spot on the back seats of the Shanghai Racquet Club bus.

– dawanr

Notwithstanding the club concerned is a private company, the rules ought to be criticized because they treat others like second-class citizens. The existence of a market economy is one thing; the merits of company policy are another.

– Wen

Treating people such as ayis in this disgraceful way is inappropriate from a social/cultural perspective.

– RLS

Middle-class owners of the club don't want to sit next to Anhui ayis. They want to be in first class! I'm sure the ayis would be happy to mingle together at the rear end.

In other words, no need for the rules, the two people would have separated themselves out of choice.

– hdp

(By Chu Meng/Jiang Xubo)

Weekly Topics

Newsweek (the US)

1. Fineman: Gore as selfless oracle
2. Social networks the next web bubble?
3. Is there really a marriage crunch?
4. Her body: belly-fat dangers
5. Protection From ID Theft

The Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Farce that rose from the grave
2. Millions will be hit by new 'stealth tax' on pensions
3. Many hands make BBC light bulb work
4. London's rudest landlord calls time
5. Heavy metal is new face of Euro-vision

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Massive telemarketing scam busted
2. You're happy. Imagine that!
3. Ex-students cite raunchy remarks
4. Bank of Canada raises rate
5. Climbers passed man dying on Everest

The Sydney Morning Herald

1. Jackson dumps a part of her
2. You snooze, you lose: weight linked to sleep patterns
3. Pedestrians hit: two dead, three critical
4. Ring-in Finch saves the day for Blues
5. Paparazzi Jolie well thwarted

(By Jiang Xubo)

CSS Charity dinner: The power of the cat-walk

African dancers
and fire eaters
burnt the hall

Photo by Xing Yangjian



Salote (left) and other embassy singers gave a folk song of Pacific Islands

Photo by Li Ying

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Not every gala dinner is really interesting, and not all are just for fun. Salote Waqanisaw knows this better than anyone else. Thanks to her experience operating a hospital in Fiji, she made the Commonwealth Society of Beijing (CSS) Charity Dinner this Wednesday quite an occasion.

Ladies from 15 embassies appeared on the stage in their national traditional costumes. The cat-walk was a combination of elegance and fun. The transparent purple attire

with shining decorations worn by Madame Bengal were absolutely charming; a garden of silver jewelry was hung on the lake-green silk dress of Madame Morocco; the climax was Madame Nigeria's aboriginal dance.

Salote told her guests they would like the function. She was right. When two African dancers and fire eaters shook their bodies hot, handclaps, whistles, and camera flashes burnt the hall.

Around 300 guests attended the dinner. As the wife of the

Fijian Ambassador and the president of CSS, she gathered her 60 members to take care of everything for the dinner. Local companies from other embassies offered generous help. The Jingguang Center Hotel even gave the ball room for free and allowed the society to bring their own wine. All the gifts for the lucky draw were provided by embassies and the Kerry Center, so they did not need to spend extra money.

The goal of this dinner was to collect over 20,000 yuan for Beijing Huiling Organiza-

tion and a Langfang orphanage, which CSS had sponsored for two years. Beijing Huiling, the NGO founded by Ms. Pei Lini in 2000, is dedicated to helping mentally disabled people to master life skills. Sandy Zong, the vice director of the development department of Huiling, said the money donated would be used mainly for the housing of the organization. "We used to be very tight for a period. It is very fortunate that we had so many supportive sponsors," she said.

Top tennis coach coaches Chinese kids

By Annie Wei

David Porter, one of the top seven tennis coaches in the world, was invited to the Potter's Wheel International School for three days this week.

Porter is the president of the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), the world's oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals. He is a much sought-after speaker and has given clinics and workshops for the ATP (Associations of Tennis Professionals), the ITF (International Tennis Federation), the USPTA, and the USTA (United States Tennis Association). He speaks in many countries and comes to China frequently to coach the top Chinese tennis players, like Zheng Jie and Yan Zi. But it's his first time to give lessons to such young students.

The Potter's Wheel International School is known for its tennis education. As a school with only a two year history, it has a program that invites the



David Porter

Photo by Tian Yufeng

top 20 tennis players in the world to come and guide the students every year.

Porter coached the students in English. Wang Yue, Porter's assistant did the translation. Wang, a former player from

China's national tennis team went abroad for further training 20 years ago, and was also a student of Porter's. Right now, Wang is not only the coach for the China national tennis men's team, but also a TV host for a Chinese tennis program.

"They are excellent," Porter said, while coaching students younger than 10 years old. For young players, Porter focuses on laying down the foundation, such as moving, predicting and catching the ball.

Porter talked about his professional Chinese proteges, "I was so upset that Yanzi lost in Morocco yesterday, but Zheng Jie played good."

Michael Wu, the school president, used to be a tennis coach trained by LTA Tennis Nation, UK. He said the school has 36 full time tennis students from seven countries. Part of the school utilities are open to other school students who come for tennis training, with more than 200 students

participating.

"Porter is a really excellent coach," Wu said, "It's great that he can visit our school and coach the kids."

"Tennis is getting very popular [in China] in the last two years," Wu said. The attraction of the school, Wu said, was that they provided an alternative elite education for students. "Potter's Wheel provides sufficient academic and tennis skills, preparing the junior professionals for a future in tennis, advanced studies or where their life may lead."

Zhao Wei, from Henan province was sitting outside of the tennis court with her husband, watching their daughter undergo Porter's coaching. A skinny nine-and-a-half-year-old girl, in a black tennis uniform, learning how to move.

"We heard of the school from friends and we think it's nice," Zhao said, smiling, "Although she has only been at this school for three months, she seems much happier."

Illegal timber imports on the agenda, as Beijing looks to save the rain forests

By Annie Wei

Responding the worldwide campaign to 'Save the Paradise Forests' of Papua New Guinea, Greenpeace in China sent four Chinese volunteers to assist local residents, and called on local log manufacturers and the local government to be more aware of the illegal export of timber.

Papua New Guinea, a country in Oceania, has the largest continuous tracts of ancient forest in the Asia Pacific region, and supports hundreds of indigenous cultures and creatures found nowhere else in the world.

However, the continuing illegal logging has threatened both the local communities and the fragile ecosystem. So Greenpeace launched the worldwide campaign to help indigenous communities with their rights to the land and legal logging.

Greenpeace China set up a workshop for the project in Guijie (food street), and had an event introducing the campaign, with the four Chinese volunteers and Annie Kajie, a lawyer from Papua New Guinea who helps the locals fight the illegal loggers.

Before Kajie arrived in Beijing, she received the Goldman Award, the world's largest prize honoring grassroots environmentalists.

Kajie and the four Chinese volunteers, a Beijing lawyer, two students and a singer from local rock 'n' roll band The Catcher in the Rye shared their experiences in protecting the forests with young people in Beijing.

Shi Pengxiang, project manager for forestry protection from Greenpeace said that as a big timber importer, China plays an important role in the campaign.

"We are fighting the illegal logging in Papua New Guinea, while we hope more timber importing countries will reduce importing illegal timber from there," Shi said.

During their investigation, they found that some 76 to 90 percent of Papua New Guinea's exported timber was illegal, and much went to China.

Shi said, "We went to some big timber markets and we found out that China's timber manufacturers are aware of the import of illegal logs."

"Many companies have promised Greenpeace they won't purchase illegal logs from Papua New Guinea. China, providing timber-process manufacturing does not want to lose her market in Europe and Japan," Shi said, "It's a good start."



Chinese volunteers working with local scientists in the rain forest

Photo provided by Greenpeace

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- 十喜** 《千龙网》：网络世界杯 与赛场同步

The digital earth is down to earth in Beijing

By Chu Meng

As China's first headquarters of an international academic organization, the International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE) opened in Beijing this week. It's sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences as well as scientists from the US,

Japan, Canada, and many other countries' academic organizations.

Digital Earth is a visionary concept, popularized by former US Vice President Al Gore. A virtual 3-D representation of the Earth is spatially referenced and interconnected with digital

archives from around the planet and vast amounts of scientific, natural and cultural information to describe and understand the Earth, its systems, and human activities.

Digital Earth is a global partnership, nurtured by the Beijing Declaration, composed of NGOs,

educators, businesses, and government leaders collaborating for a better future. This egalitarian and democratic participatory partnership will enable future generations unprecedented technical and educational facilities on the Internet for exploring the Earth.

Well traveled Chinese babes to become TV stars

By Annie Wei

Since Cao Guiling announced that he was looking for actresses in his new TV series the *New Yorkers in Beijing*, it attracted the interest of many people.

After several months of viewing young actors and actresses, Cao finally decided on the actresses for the two leading roles: Jenny and Susan, two New York born Chinese girls. And the shooting kicked off in a studio setup in the Fragrant Hills last week.

Living in the US for many years, Cao gained fame for writing and directing the successful Chinese TV opera *Beijingers in New York* 20 years ago. The TV drama described how Chinese intellectuals immigrated and struggled in New York. It was widely admired all over China.

"People love those episodes and asked me to write the series," Cao said. The story is about two American Chinese girls living in Beijing.

Cao said that many of his friends had lived in the US, and the story was based on his observation of the next generation. His requirement for the leading roles was that they are between 21 and 25 years old and speak English and Chinese well.

The selected actresses are Xie Xinyi and Li Jing, who are totally new to the TV industry. Xie Xinyi, who is going to play Jenny just graduated from China Communication College. Xie finished her high school in Boston, US as an exchanged student.

International culture easy to swallow

By Chen Shasha

Hundreds of foods from various countries were sold at the first International Cultural Festival of Beijing Jiaotong University, last weekend. International students showed foods and arts from their homelands. More than 2,000 yuan was collected during the four hour festival. This money will be given to poor children to help their studies.



A student from Africa showing foods from his homeland

Photo by Shen Yan

Minds in process

By Olivier Sasportas

Homonumos, from Greek *homos*: same & *onuma*: name, is a new magazine founded by Christine Bellerose – a Canadian from Montreal who arrived in China six years ago.

Since the beginning of May, this monthly magazine based in Beijing proposes to deal with literature, philosophy and the sciences. Basically, any sort of texts, debates or illustrations as long as they concern an idea.

This pattern comes from Bellerose's basic belief: a growing number of people want to think. With eyes wide open on every dimension that makes existence a miracle, apprehending complexity should make the mag a big hit.

Based on a simple fact – life is intelligence, and no one wants to mess up with life – she could be right. That would explain the magazine's success. More than half of the first 1,000 copies have already found their way – not only to the Bookworm, Time Zone 8 Art Books, and the Imag-



The performance this month is in Dashanzi

Photo by Olivier Sasportas

ine Gallery (three places where it can be purchased) – but to many individuals too.

In the publication world, opportunities for such a maga-

zine to exist are exceptional. It's rather symptomatic of a society prepared to use all the materials available – concrete and brains alike – in order to explore and build, or vice-versa.

Here, Beijing played a key role. This city is for opportunism, like Ikea to any empty flat, a paradise. Christine Bellerose just had to put an advert on a web site – asking for partners – and straight away she received a flood of proposals. Among them was Virginie Mangin's e-mail. This French journalist has been in Beijing since 2004, with previous experience as a magazine founder herself. She was to become the editor of *Homonumos*.

The norm

Each issue of *Homonumos* will examine a topic. The first is 'The Norm'. Ironically the birth of the magazine gives the most pertinent answer to this question. With a graphic designer working from Barcelona, the chance to promote multilingualism (texts are written or translated in English, Chinese, Spanish and Ital-

ian) contributors from all around the world, and the possibility – beyond the text – to watch the debates on the dedicated web site (www.homonumos.com), the Norm might just have found a challenging definition – for a while.

Performances

Performances are also an interesting extension of the magazine. Because sipping a Long island Ice Tea in Plato's sky could be tempting, every issue is a pretext to multiply collaborations with artists and incite people to furnish an echo to the spoken texts. Dashanzi's festival was an appropriate scene in May, but the whole city is the target.

Next month *Homonumos* will present a new topic in Shanghai with a new topic: Perspectives. Before the end of this year the magazine aspires to reach China's neighbors – South Korea and Vietnam.

That's the risk with ideas. When they incarnate in the right body, the growth can be spectacular.

The Great Wall Marathon

By Annie Wei

The Great Wall Marathon in Beijing attracted more overseas tourists and runners than locals. Last Saturday, around 1,400 people came to the wall. Some 900 people from 33 countries joined the run. Another 500 people were from companies and embassies based in Beijing.

The attraction is the Great Wall. A marketer said the race was, "A little tougher than the usual course." Since it began in 1999, the Great Wall Marathon has been a joint event between a group of international athletic associations and the Chinese Travel Service, as well as the authorities of Tianjin northeast of Beijing, where part of the wall is located.

David Arden, from UK won the male event and Margaret Stewart, from New Zealand blitzed the competition in the female equivalent.

National Science Foundation opens office in Beijing

By Annie Wei

The Beijing office of the National Science Foundation (NSF) opened this week. NSF is an independent federal agency created by the US Congress in 1950. The Beijing office was established with the efforts of NSF and the US Embassy in Beijing.

The purpose of setting up the Beijing office is to strengthen collaboration between American and Chinese scientists and engineers and to further US scientific and technological interests, the new office said.

William Chang was appointed as the head of the

Beijing NSF office. Arden L Bement, director of NSF, said science and technology is developing so quickly that collaboration between countries was essential.

Wednesday's Sino-US conference included delegates from both countries and

focused on computer science and information technology. The delegates held a one-day Sino-US 'Computer Science Leadership Summit' in Beijing with Chinese colleagues to discuss issues of common interest in the fields of research and education.

Secretary General's wife falls for China's female artists



Nani Annan (seventh from left) and local female artists

Photo provided by Three Fourth Gallery

By Chu Meng

As the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan paid his seventh visit to China, his wife Nani Annan

visited the Beijing Three Fourths Gallery in Dashanzi, and showed great interest in the art work by China's female artists.

She had come to the well-known art district to learn about the development of art among China's female community and understand their

frustrations. "Art in any form is great and art by women is an essential element," she said, "women in every corner of the world should love art."

Top rocker kicks off French music festival

By Han Manman

Popular French rocker, Maida Roth, will play at Dashanzi today at the start of a two-day music festival being held in the art district.

Chinese students will also take part in a French song contest during the event, which is being organized by the French

Embassy and Beijing's French Cultural Center.

Roth's concert at 9 pm this evening, will be the start of two days of French song events. From 4:30 pm tomorrow, the final French song competition being held between Chinese universities will be reaching its climax. Eight singers

selected from over 300 participants from across China will take part in the competition. Most of the eight judges, who include five French judges, are musicians. The winners will be given the chance to go to France to take part in the La Rochelle Music Festival in July, an annual music event

that attracts nearly 70,000 festival-goers with over 120 concerts.

Address: 798 Dashanzi Art District South Gate, 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District.

For more information, call the French embassy (culture section) on: 85 32 83 83

Music brings Einstein to life

By Lucky Zhang

Super Strings, a lecture and musical performance organized by the British Council as part of Beijing Technology Week, took place last weekend. British physics professors, violinists and pianists were invited to Beijing to explain Einstein's life and theories by giving lectures and musical performances.

Albert Einstein is probably the world's best-known physicist, famed for his theory of relativity. But he is also known to have had a love of music, playing the violin and the piano.

Last weekend's event, held at the Capital Museum, attracted around 250 people from pension-

ers to children.

"I think it's good to learn more about Einstein - he was a great man," said one elderly visitor. "It was a really interesting event because there were not only theoretical lectures but also violin and piano performances," he added.

Brian Foster, professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Oxford, introduced Einstein's life and theories. The lecture was accompanied by selections from J. S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, some of Einstein's favorite music.

At the end of the lecture, Brian Foster played the violin accompanied by Jack Liebeck.

"Music played a very important role in Einstein's life," said Foster. "His wife fell in love with him because he played Mozart's music beautifully; he played violin and piano while he was thinking about his theories."

"I think that for people to hear the music that Einstein loved, music written by other great genius, they might appreciate what a genius he was," said Jack Liebeck. "The music gave Einstein much inspiration in his life. It gives a great insight into the man and his mind."

The professors and musicians this week headed to Chongqing and Guangzhou to give lectures and performances there.

Award-winning women

By Annie Wei

The first Olya Women's World Excellence Awards Ceremony 2006 was held in Beijing Hotel last Friday night. The event was organized by the World Federation of Overseas Chinese Associations, China World Trade Center Co., Ltd and Global Events Network, and attracted more than 500 local and foreign participants.

Nominations were made by professional organizations and institutions, leading women's organizations, relevant business and industry associations and interest groups from Greater China and South East

Language-testing book launched

By Lucky Zhang

English teachers and business executives attended the launch of a new English language-testing book on Tuesday.

Essential BULATS (Business Language Testing Service) was unveiled at a conference held by the British Council, Cambridge University Press and University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

The book introduces different parts of BULATS including: listening, reading and writing. It also includes examination questions selected from the Cambridge ESOL Examinations question bank.

Around 60 to 80 English teachers and executives from business English training centers in Beijing were invited to the conference.

Staff from the British Council and the University of Cambridge ESOL also introduced how to participate and apply for BULATS and the business English examination series of Cambridge ESOL.

China, US and Cote D'Ivoire reach quarterfinals

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Hiboo 2006 International Cup Football competition entered its second round on Saturday. China trounced Malaysia 4:0 and became the first team to reach the quarterfinals. Holland will have to swap their places on the pitch for seats in the stands after being thrashed 4:0 by the US. Korea and France drew their game and Cote D'Ivoire walloped Mexico 10:2.

Ambassador to teach Portuguese culture

By Han Manman

Portuguese ambassador, Antonio Santana Carlos, will give a lecture in Portuguese at 2 pm on Wednesday (May 31) at the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). His lecture is open to all who are interested in learning about Portuguese culture.

Address: room 213, Yifu Building, East Campus of the Beijing Foreign Studies University.



Sherina Chan (third from left) and other Chinese members of SPA updating the Portal of 2008 Beijing Olympiad

Student hacks to report on the Olympics

By Annie Wei

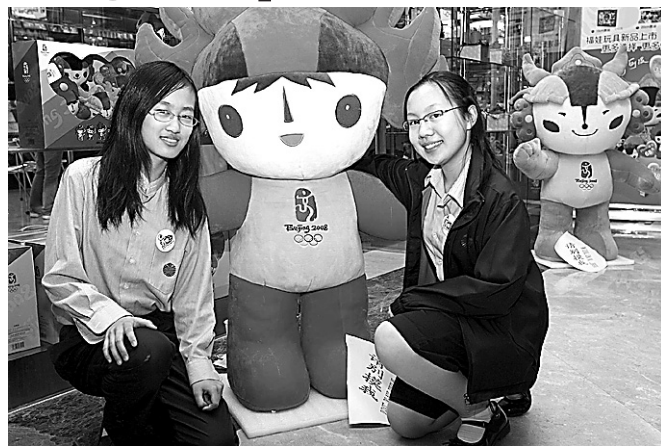
Sherina Chan, a 13-year-old from Hong Kong and Rena Sha, a 12-year-old from Germany have just updated a lead story on the official website for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The article is about UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's impending visit later that day.

This was the pair's first visit to the editorial department of the Beijing Olympiad's official portal in their new role as members of the Beijing Student Press Association (SPA). And they were quick to get into the role. "What kind of news can be put on the portal?" one of them asked.

"News that is of interest to the largest number of readers," a member of staff explained. "The construction of the stadiums is a hot topic at the moment for many people so we put the focus on this kind of information and try to display it in a prominent place."

Chan and Sha, who have good Chinese language skills, were specially selected to contribute to SPA's newly formed international section after being recommended by their schoolteachers.

The Beijing SPA is the biggest



Peua Sha (left) and Sherina Chan in a friendies store

Photos by A Pan

amateur press association for students in Beijing. Established 21 years ago, it has trained many excellent TV hosts, reporters and journalists across China and gained a highly respected reputation as well as having a positive impact on students.

Jin Hang, editorial division manager of Beijing Organizing Committee for the games, said, "I knew the Beijing Student Press Association when I was a student. It's a great honor for anyone who

can join it.

"The Olympics in Beijing is attracting the city's local students as well as expatriate students," said Wang Sijing, the editor in charge of the international branch. It's their main reason for starting the first-ever recruitment of foreign students for the press association.

For the past two months, Wang and her colleagues have been working with the Yew Chung Education Foundation to recruit

foreign student reporters. More than 70 students were interviewed but only 20 were recruited.

"Some students have very good Chinese skills, while some don't," said Wang. Although journalism styles in China and the West can be very different, Wang said there were enough news-reporting similarities to make the program a great opportunity for foreign students to improve their Chinese and master basic journalism skills.

So what impressed the editors during their interviews with these foreign students?

"They were very confident," Wang said. And they found that the main reason students wanted to take part was to improve their Chinese writing skills.

Wang said the international branch has been so impressed with the caliber of the current students it plans to look for more foreign student reporters in the future. "More events will be organized and the students will be given the chance to see how the Beijing committee for the games functions and visit some major Olympic projects."

Parents and pupils prepare to put egg and spoon skills to the test

By Tom Mackenzie

Parents and pupils will put their egg and spoon skills to the test this weekend as sports days kick off at two schools.

The International Academy of Beijing (IAB) will hold its annual sports day today (Friday) and Beanstalk International Bilingual School (BIBS) will hold theirs tomorrow.

There will be games, activities and races.

"Our staff and students have already started preparing lots of great games and activities to make the day special," said school director Kathy Shi.

More kids to be taught Chinese

By Tom Mackenzie

The British School of Beijing (BSB) is planning to start the school day earlier and employ more Chinese teachers to improve their pupil's Mandarin skills.

From the next academic year, the school day will begin at 8.30am and the number of Chinese language teachers will be increased.

School head, Gilbard Honey-Jones, said the proposed changes were a result of requests from parents.

"We are currently pursuing the idea to increase our Chinese teaching so that every pupil at whatever level receives a Chinese lesson every day," he said. "To enable this development to occur, we will increase our number of Chinese teachers and the school day will begin at 8.30 a.m. We hope that this goes some way to helping those families who have requested more Chinese lessons, as well as ensuring that all pupils get their entitlement."

School library cash boost

By Tom Mackenzie

The International Academy of Beijing (IAB) is set to expand its library after staff and teachers raised more than 17,000 RMB at the school's annual spring fair.

Hundreds of people attended

the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) organized event that was held in the school's Lido playground.

There were games, music and dance performances and dozens of food stalls.

"The highlight of the day for many of the students seemed to be the chance to throw a wet sponge at some of their teachers," said a member of the PTA. "Mr. McDonald, IAB Headmaster, was predictably the most pop-

ular target."

In total, over 17,000 RMB was raised to support the work of the PTA. Around 10,000 RMB will be used to help expand the school library and boost the number of books.

I-D magazine: still winking at 25



Famous architect, Antonio Ochoa (right)

By Annie Wei

Since its launch, UK fashion magazine *I-D* has been at the cutting edge of fashion.

Apart from having a rebellious spirit, *I-D* magazine is also famous for the pictures of winking models on its cover.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, *I-D* magazine is holding parties in many cities all over the world, including Beijing. *I-D* magazine's 'Winkers Party' in Beijing was held last week in 798 Art District, and attracted many artists and designers.

Look at them winking!



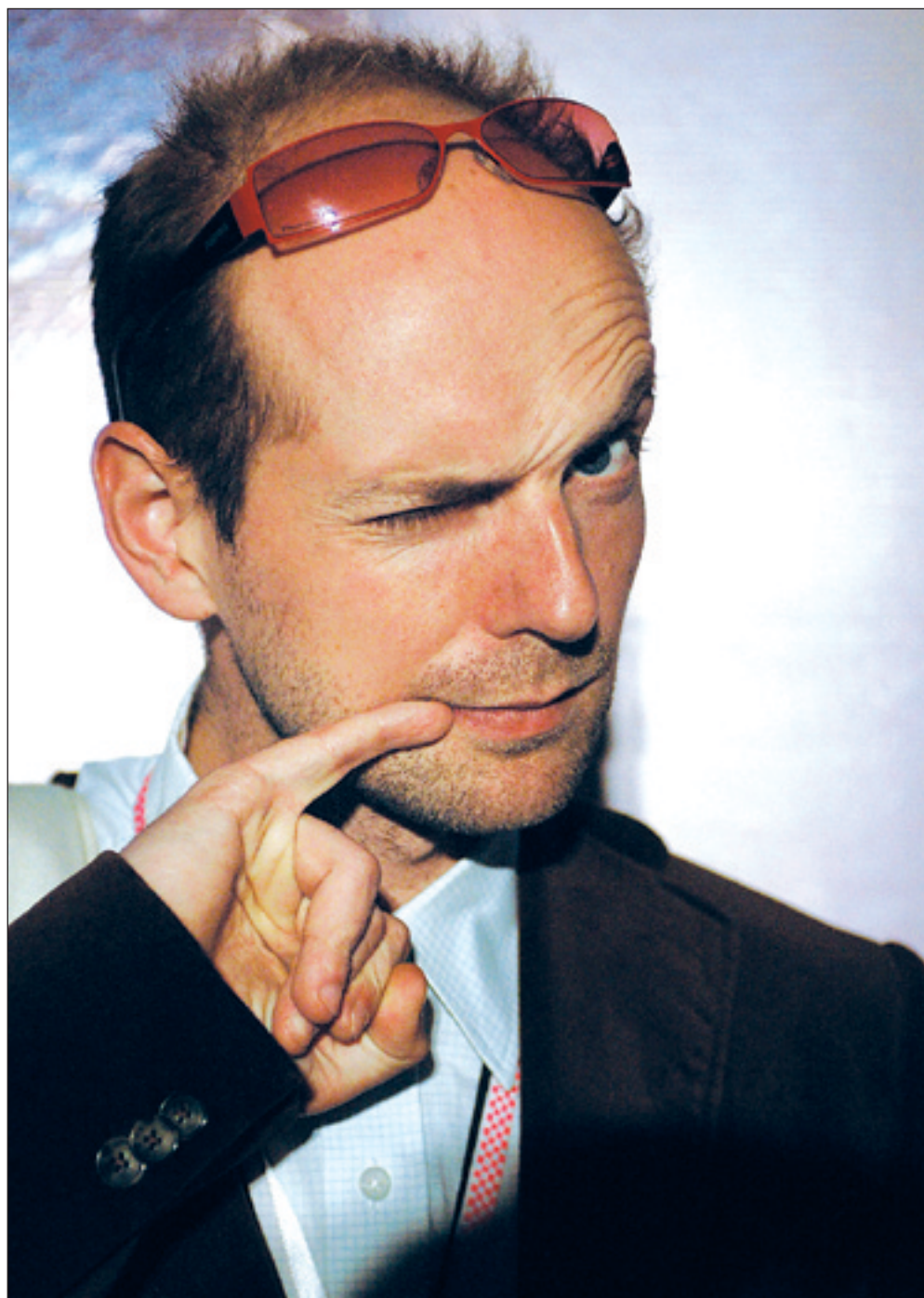
Udo Hoffman, from Logiotix



A bunch of winkers



Yang Guowei, photographer



Neville Mans

Arario Beijing: outdoor arts



Kuro Nekouian, German artist

By Annie Wei

For the first time in China, Arario Beijing presents an opportunity for the public to experience the extraordinary pictorial world of Thomas Ruff (b.1958), spanning from the early 90s to today. Since appearing on the international stage in the mid-80s, Ruff has built a unique world of photography involving such themes as *Nudes*, *Substrate*, *Sterne*, *Architecture*, *Newspaper Photographs* (*Zeitungsfotos*), and *Posters* (*Plakate*).



Megumi Shimizu, Japanese student (left) and Martha Woldu



Cecilia Freschini



Meg Maggia and Inma Gonzalez Puy, directors

Photos by Blinking



OCDF founder



Adopted Chinese children get stuck in at 'culture camp'.



Jane and Emily pose in front of a picture of the Great Wall.

From Caucasianville to Chinaville – bringing China's adoptees home



Emily and Jane



Mother and daughter

Photos by Tom Mackenzie

By Tom Mackenzie

In 1994 Dr Jane Liedtke traveled from her home in Bloomington, Illinois, to China to adopt her daughter. Emily, a scrawny 17-month-old baby, had been living in a barren, state-run orphanage for over a year after being found abandoned on the steps of a small town hospital.

"She was tiny, underfed and covered in lice," said Dr Liedtke. "But I felt we had an immediate bond."

Twelve years on and Dr Liedtke runs a not-for-profit organization that helps hundreds of families from Europe and the US return to China with their adopted children so they can experience the country first hand. Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF) has also helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for some of the country's most impoverished orphanages.

"Ten years ago there was very little support for parents of adopted Chinese children," said Dr Liedtke, a former university professor. "I started organizing culture camps in Bloomington and I realized there were people who were adopting kids who had no connection with China. There were families who had never got on a plane before, let alone visited China."

In 1998, Dr Liedtke, who had moved with Emily to China, began organizing tours of the country for families and their adopted children.

"The idea was to help the kids fall in love with China," she said. "For most of these kids they are living in total Caucasianville back in the US or Europe. Their only notion of China is the adoption story they were told by their parents. Coming back is incredibly powerful for them. It helps kids to find themselves and understand their identity. It helps them answer questions like what they are going to look like when they get older. For the most part these children only know what people have told them. The whole trip is about them experiencing it for themselves. They get to know the reality."

There are around 60,000 adopted Chinese children living in the US and Canada. A further 15,000 have been adopted by families in Europe.

And in increasing numbers, those parents are choosing to bring their children back to their birthplace.

In 1998, 27 people signed up for OCDF's tours. The following year, 100 people from Europe and the US jetted over to China. This year, OCDF is organizing tours for 650 people.

"These trips are extremely important for the adopted child and their families. And they can be very moving and emotional. A lot of the parents choose to take their children to the orphanage they were placed in or the doorways and steps where they were found. I've heard children turn around to their parents in the orphanage and say 'if it wasn't for you, I'd still be here'. They see the reality, not the fairytale adoption story some of them are told by their parents, and that's very healthy. The trip resolves a lot of questions for the child – it's like finding their face. And for the first time they have a real relationship with their home."

Funds generated by OCDF's tours are channeled into their orphanage projects in China. In two months alone at the end of last year they raised over US\$26,000. The cash went on everything from orphanage care packages to school sponsorships.

"We work with a lot of orphanages, state run and private and there's an incredible amount to do – there are over one thousand orphanages across the country. As long as the need is there, we will be there."

For more information about OCDF or to make a donation go to www.ocdf.org or email jane@ocdf.org.

"She was tiny, underfed and covered in lice. But I felt we had an immediate bond."

"There were families who had never got on a plane before, let alone visited China."

"For the most part these children only know what people have told them. The whole trip is about them experiencing it for themselves. They get to know the reality."

"I've heard children turn around to their parents in the orphanage and say 'if it wasn't for you, I'd still be here'."

Spitting with Witches

By: Jonathan 'Cao Cao' Kos-Read
(Jonathan 'Cao Cao' Kos-Read is a US actor in many Chinese movies and soap operas)

She croaked, "Spit in this!" I looked into the bowl - two chicken bones, some rice, some dirt and an egg yolk. Two other crones were making spells over identical bowls, waiting for my spit.

I said, "Please . . . aaaaagggghhhh . . . tell someone from aaaaagggghhhh . . . my crew that aaaaagggghhhh . . . I think something is seriously wrong aaaaagggghhhh . . . with my stomach."

"Spit now. Spit now."

We had different goals. She was worried about the evil spirits I'd brought into her village when I, clearly possessed by some, collapsed screaming in the middle of the village's one dusty street. A spell was needed but I wasn't cooperating. I, the agonizing pain in my stomach having finally convinced me that this was no normal stomach ache, wanted to be taken to a hospital, told what was wrong and pumped full of drugs.

The pain started in the morning, a dull ache I get sometimes when I'm hungry. I figured eating would clear it up. But lunch just made it worse.

We were just over the border in drug lord controlled north Burma (because it was cheaper than regular Burma)

shooting a scene where I, the 'Evil British General' am crossing a bridge and spot my enemy in disguise and try to grab her. The hero defends her and we tussle. I lose of course and they continue on their way. But this gnawing ache in my stomach was making it hard to concentrate.

When I had to stagger off behind some bushes to puke a bunch of blood I was sure that something was wrong.

"I think something's wrong. I just puked up a bunch of blood."

Producer, "Aahm, yeah, lets just get one more shot okay?"

Finally, when I couldn't stand up anymore, they drove me back across the border into Yunnan, and to the 'hospital' (dirt floored shed), where I lay down on the 'bed' (a broken door.) and had an 'IV' (coke bottle hung from an upside down umbrella nailed to the ceiling) and they gave me 'medicine' (water). It was after an hour of the doctor/pig farmer giving me sugar water and looking nervous that I staggered out into the blazing sunshine, collapsed screaming in the middle of the dusty street and was spotted by the witches.

After I spit and they finished their spells, the ambulance came. We bumped along for an hour until we got to a 'city'. They poked at my belly for an hour, wanting it to be

appendicitis, but I screamed in the wrong place so they were stumped.

By this time I was crying, and not like boo-hoo style, but tears-streaming-down-my-face snot-bubble crying. I was begging them to give me pain killers but they wouldn't because I had to tell them where it hurt so they could decide what was wrong. That sucked major ass but made sense so I bit my lip and took it. Finally, at three in the morning, after like 14 hours of this shit, the agony got unbearable. It didn't come in pulses. It didn't hurt more or less depending on what I was doing. It was a constant, searing, gut-wrenching, twist-and-writhe, screaming agony. I staggered out of my cot and dragged myself out into the cold empty hallway yelling for the nurse. Some sleepy 16-year-old tottered out of the nurses' station. "Give me drugs or I will kill you." I said to her. So, finally, I got some fuckin' pain killers.

I hung out there for a few days screaming and begging for drugs while they poked at my belly. Then suddenly one day I felt better; but that was because I was dying. My appendix had burst and when that happens, all the pressure goes away because rotten flesh and puss drains away into your intestinal cavity and, well, starts to kill you. But boy do you feel better!

Finally, the idiot doctors realized what happened and said, "Fuck! Oh my God! This *laowai* might die here! What a hassle!" and told the producers to get me on a plane to Kunming.

When the producers told the stewardesses why I was hyperventilating and thrashing around, they freaked and postponed takeoff so airline suits could come on and make me sign a thing that said if I died on their plane it wasn't their fault.

Two hours later I staggered into the Kunming hospital lobby screaming, and I don't mean like argh type whimpers, but top of my lungs, full out Naomi Watts girly style. Doctors rushed out and, not idiots, they got me into surgery pretty damn fast. The last thing I remember is the angelic face of the anesthesiologist leaning over me and asking, "How do you want to do this, local, or full?" And I said "Man, knock me the fuck out."

Later when I was recuperating, (minus a grotty, decaying appendix and about a gallon of green puss) the producer came by. "Don't worry. We put you in the most expensive room with the best doctor." That was really good of them I thought, wow, some producers are really okay, bad on me for always stereotyping them!

But of course they deducted it from my paycheck.

BJ's Love & Hate

Regarding PVS

By Carlos Santamaria

Goodbye paradise beaches, wonderful weather and friendly local people. Welcome back Beijing's grey towers, pollution and people who don't give a fig if they shove you on the subway and with whom you really can't argue because your Chinese is horrible or at least not good enough for them to understand you. I may be exaggerating but hey, many of us have probably spent last week suffering from Post-Vacational Syndrome (PVS).

It's not a minor problem, and some western psychiatrists consider it to be a serious ailment that can affect performance at work and relations with coworkers, family and friends. Even US President George W. Bush was reported last summer to suffer PSV, but that could have been just a lame excuse for not getting involved when hurricane Katrina got messy in New Orleans.

According to most specialists, main symptoms include anxiety, depression, unwillingness to produce any kind of effort and occasional outbursts of temper.

It was not that extreme in my case, but after nine fabulous days in Southeast Asia, as well as passing through Macau and Hong Kong, touching down at Beijing and not being able to tell the color of the sky from the asphalt on the landing strip makes one really want to start sobbing.

No kidding, I found myself shouting at people at work and in a really horrible mood. On top of that, my Chinese coworkers insisted on my showing them every single picture I took and telling them all about my trip.

Furthermore, one must cope with the fact that being an expat and thousand of miles away from home, and in a country yet so strange and mysterious to some of us as is China, doesn't help it all to get over it.

It was then when I realized I had to pull myself together and put it all behind me, the sooner I managed that, the sooner I could start thinking about preparing next trip to Xinjiang.

As the days passed and Friday and Sanlitun loomed nearer, I started to feel a lot better and have enjoyed a great weekend telling everyone about my holiday and listening to the stories about theirs.

Beijing is once again a great place to live in and even the weather has improved noticeably, so even though it'll never compare to the Tropics, one must make the best of it.

Beijing Daze

Balancing the yin and yang

By Edmund Backhome

An evening at the theater - well, in a space at the fashionable 798 arts centre - set me thinking on issues of gender. Two pieces were performed on the night, versions of Sam Shepard's *Savage/Love* and Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*. The former offered an intense exploration of the dynamics of two heterosexual relationships. Shepard's spare verse proved flexible enough to map diverse arcs for the process of love, the two couples acted the same dialogue but let it carry them to two very different places.

Although the *Vagina Monologues* is based on individual interviews with women from a variety of backgrounds and places, the overall effect was to provoke thinking on the wider issues of gender in society. I then thought specifically about the case in China; this despite the performance being in English and largely reflecting US women's experiences. A Chinese version including more local material was performed in Guangzhou a few years back, but it has not got on stage since.

The position of women in China has in many respects



Sam Shepard's *Savage/Love* offers an intense exploration of the dynamics of two heterosexual relationships
Photo by Wang Xiaoyuan

improved massively since 1949; indeed, the first piece of legislation enacted in the People's Republic was a Marriage Law that gave women rights and status they had never enjoyed before. A 2005 survey of the 'gender gap' in 58 countries commissioned by the World Economic Forum ranked China 33rd, best of all Asian nations including Japan and Korea, 'boosted in the rankings by a high [level of] economic participation, but compromised by low political empowerment and

health and well-being'. In a white paper issued on the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Women's Forum held in Beijing in 1995, the Chinese government has reiterated its commitment to 'strive to ensure that women enjoy the same rights as men in politics, economy, culture, society and family life'. Yet it is obvious that the women of China are still confronted by a whole raft of inequalities and wrongs.

The bias against the feminine begins before birth. The ratio of

girl to boy children is now 100 to 120, the greatest imbalance in any nation. It continues to be a factor in a girl's education and a young woman's chances of good employment or high office. China is one of the few countries in the world where more women commit suicide than men.

The 2005 government White Paper concluded that there is 'a long way to go and arduous tasks to tackle to achieve gender equality'. That goal will be achieved sooner if women's voices can be heard.

A matter of the mind

By David Drakeford

Dr Rob Blinn has been working as a psychologist for nearly 15 years and practicing in Beijing since 2003. Mainly dealing with foreigners from around the globe, he answers some questions today on the emotional roller-coaster ride of life in China's great capital.

Q: What are some of the problems a foreigner might experience living in a city such as Beijing?

A: A whole range of things. If you are working for a big corporation it makes a difference how well the company has prepared you, from the big changes down to the smaller ones – everything including cultural issues, family problems, education and schools. We do a lot of family counselling for teenagers who have trouble adjusting to private schools, not all of them wanted to leave home. Also a minimum drinking age is a recent innovation for Beijing and not yet taken seriously. Children as young as 12 and 13 may have access to alcohol and not always with good parental supervision. There are those with family adjustment issues, they may have a romantic notion that a new life abroad will solve domestic problems but it can actually make them worse. A



Dr Rob Blinn

change of scene may be enriching but only if significant conflict does not get in the way.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who has recently moved to Beijing?

A: It would be a good idea to find a friend who has lived here for a while and knows the ropes. Some may try to do it all on their own but when moving to a radically different country it really pays off to know something about the language and culture. It's also important

for you to do research before coming to China and talk to those already here about the stresses and strains.

Q: Are there any activities that you recommend to people who feel under stress or unhappy?

A: Exercise. Take care of your body, relax, breathe correctly. Yoga is good as is stretching or taichi at the beginning and end of the day. Humour is also beneficial: comedies on DVD, jokes on the Internet – it's personal though. In Taiwan I used to enjoy reading the unintentionally hilarious Chinglish T-shirts.

Q: What romantic problems might a foreign visitor expect to encounter in Beijing?

A: Lots of different problems. Extra marital affairs are certainly not uncommon, and cross-cultural relationships can be difficult. Good communication is essential in relationships but sometimes linguistic and cultural issues can create a barrier.

Q: What do you think are the characteristics of a happy and healthy expat?

A: A person who takes care of him or herself – exercises, eats right, meets people, learns the language, looks into the

culture. Someone who doesn't spend all their time shut off in a compound but meets the people on the street.

Q: Does there come a time when you have to advise people to return to their home country?

A: Well, that's really a personal choice. I would only do that if there were very severe psychological issues and after having talked to other family members. It has happened though – there are not always the resources here to deal with very serious problems.

Q: You're a psychologist... why do people really come to China?

A: It's entirely personal – their company asks them, they follow family members, language study, cultural interest, research, historical appeal. I don't think there's any one explanation that links all these different people together.

Q: Are you happy in Beijing?

A: Yes I am. I've been here for three years and I enjoy the culture, the Chinese language, historical sights, getting to know the people. I like it here.

Dr. Rob Blinn works at Beijing United Family Hospital
Tel: 64333960

www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com

Small and single – A dog's life in the capital

By Annie Wei

Beijing has strict regulations on keeping dogs. For example; you are not supposed to have large dogs in the city and downtown, you are not supposed to have more than one dog and are required to register your dog every year at the local Public Security Bureau (PSB).

Most expatriates who want to have a dog in Beijing follow the same rules as local residents. There are only a few exceptions for diplomatic staff. Embassies are allowed to keep large dogs but only within the embassy compound. They are not allowed to walk them around the city.

Diplomatic workers who live outside the embassy grounds have to get permission from their jiedao, the local neighborhood division.

Foreign students living on campus are not usually allowed to keep dogs unless they get special permission from their teachers. If they move – off campus and want to keep a dog, they will also have to get the green light from the local PSB and jiedao offices.

To register your pooch at



Puppy love – a foreigner and her four-legged friend

Photo provided by IC

the PSB, bring in two photos of the dog, your passport, your registration certificate and, if you bought your pet from home, any import certificates.

Song Jiawu, an officer from Beijing's Exit and Entry Management Bureau, said, "Generally speaking, each

individual can only raise one dog in the city. If you live in a suburban area, such as Tongxian, you can have more than one dog, or large dogs."

Song also warned that the PSB rewards people for finagling those with unregistered dogs. The initial registration is 1000 yuan with

another 500-yuan fee for an annual renewal. Diplomatic staff can keep dogs for free.

"Last year the number of registered dogs in Beijing was more than 400,000," Song said, "There are less than 100 diplomatic dogs in Beijing – the US embassy has the most."

ASK Beijing Today

Robert Miller, an engineer from the UK asked: Should I haggle with taxi drivers over the price, should I set a price for the journey before getting into the taxi?

Do you mean legal taxis or black market cabs? Legal taxis in Beijing start at 10 yuan for the first three kilometers and go up another 1.6 yuan per kilometer after that. Every five minutes the taxi is stationary costs 1.6 yuan.

Xiali was a type of taxi that was very popular with young expats because it cost just 1.2 yuan per kilometer, but the cabs have now been phased out.

From July 1, all taxis in Beijing will jump to two-yuan per kilometer. Some people predict that the taxi price-hike will lead to a boom in black market cabs.

And yes, if it's a black market taxi, you should always haggle over the price.

It's better to know the rough cost of your journey before taking a taxi, whether it's legal or not – illegal taxis are not necessarily cheaper than legal ones. If you don't know your destination very well you could end up getting cheated. The problem is that Beijing is so spread out it's hard for anyone to know the entire city well.

A few people do haggle with legal taxi drivers but only the most tight-fisted.

R. M from the UK asked: Does China make good red wine.

Beijing Today asked a local Chinese food and wine connoisseur. He said there is good Chinese produced wine, but that it was difficult to find.

He suggested the Sino-French Vineyard, a demonstration vineyard set up by the Chinese and French governments. "Wen Jiabao, the Chinese prime minister, initiated agricultural cooperation between the two countries in 1997 and agriculture ministers of both sides agreed to set up a vineyard with the help of wine experts."

The vineyard is located in Huailai County, Hebei Province, a one-hour drive from Beijing. The Sino-French vineyard has a variety of different grapes including: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Marselen and Chardonnay. Each plant is taken care of under French wine management regulations. The wine-makers at the vineyard are also French.

The vineyard's products have yet to be sold on the market but there are often wine tasting events held at the vineyard for wine lovers, entrepreneurs and socialites. There is one being held this weekend. For more information send an email with your contact number to weiyang@ynet.com.

If you have any questions about living in Beijing, write to dongnan@ynet.com, Beijing Today will try to find you the answers to your questions.

(By Annie Wei)



Alice Lau as the singer and storyteller

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The story

Zhang Ailing (Eileen Chang), the famous Chinese writer, shot to fame in the 1940s. Her unique view of male and female interactions won her legions of fans. Her novels are among the most adapted for different mediums, including this, *Love in a Fallen City*. The latest version, produced by a Hong Kong based team, dropped its curtain last Sunday in Capital Theater.

The story is about a woman, Bai Liusu (Louisa So), and a man, Fan Liuyuan (Leung Ka Fai). They meet in the tumbling world of World War II. To be the winner of the game of love, they start a competition of passion, intelligence, and patience. Only the falling of the whole city leaves romance as the result.

Leung Ka Fai and Louisa So were the focus of the whole production. *Beijing Today* talked with the lovers on stage when their last performance was set to close a couple of hours later on Sunday.

Behind scenes with Fan Liuyuan and Bai Liusu

"Is this I? No," said Leung Ka Fai. Holding a Camel cigarette and staring at himself in the program for *Love in a Fallen City*, Leung Ka Fai shook his head, meditating. He arrives at the Capital Theater much earlier than the others, sits in front of the mirror, and puts on makeup, slowly. "It takes two hours: I comb my hair, staring at myself in the mirror; then I put on the costume. Gradually I see the change of how I turn into Fan Liuyuan (Fan), the rich playboy with a strong inferiority complex. This is the most silent moment, and the best moment for me."

Having played Fan for over 50 nights on stages in Hong Kong, New York, Toronto, Shanghai and Beijing for the last half year, Leung admitted that he was nearly exhausted, despite his excitement each day before the show.

Leung just won his third Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Still the new king had to face a big challenge in the drama: the tango. The drama started with a tango and ended with another. "Fan fell in love with Bai when they

danced for the first time. So I have to dance with not only skill but with passion." Being a dancing layman, Leung said that it was always Louisa who led him, "I am still clumsy," he said. "At least he doesn't step on me now," laughed Louisa.

The shoes in which Leung stepped on Louisa hundreds of times, are now kept in Beta Shoe Museum in Toronto, just next to those of Marilyn Monroe.

"I am very fortunate to perform with Louisa So. She is the best Bai Liusu. We did not make a good pair at first. We used to shut ourselves in a room and try to argue like Fan and Bai. That is how we understood each other's role and brought them together."

Louisa So is known more to Beijing audiences for her performances in TV plays. As a typical modern Hong Kong woman, she found a lot of differences between the role and herself.

"Bai was born in a very traditional big Chinese family, where a woman owned no position at all if she was abandoned by a man. As a divorced woman, she had to struggle for life and dignity. The way she smiles, lowers the head, walks and talks, are not her own characteristics or external elegance, but her weapons to survive. She knows very clearly that only those can seize Fan's heart. Hers is not a lovely role, but it's a real human role. The more I play her, the closer I become her."

"If I had a chance, I would prefer to play Fan, because we are the same people when falling in love. As an independent woman, I don't need to look for security or support from a man. Thus I would focus on a relationship at the moment, instead of thinking about gain or loss."

The director and the singer

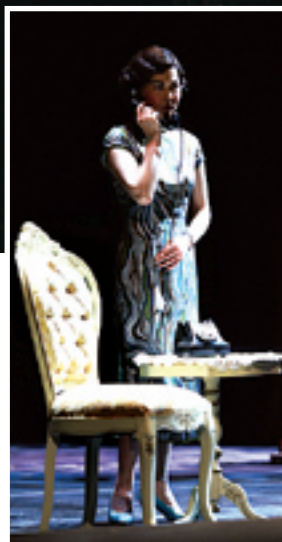
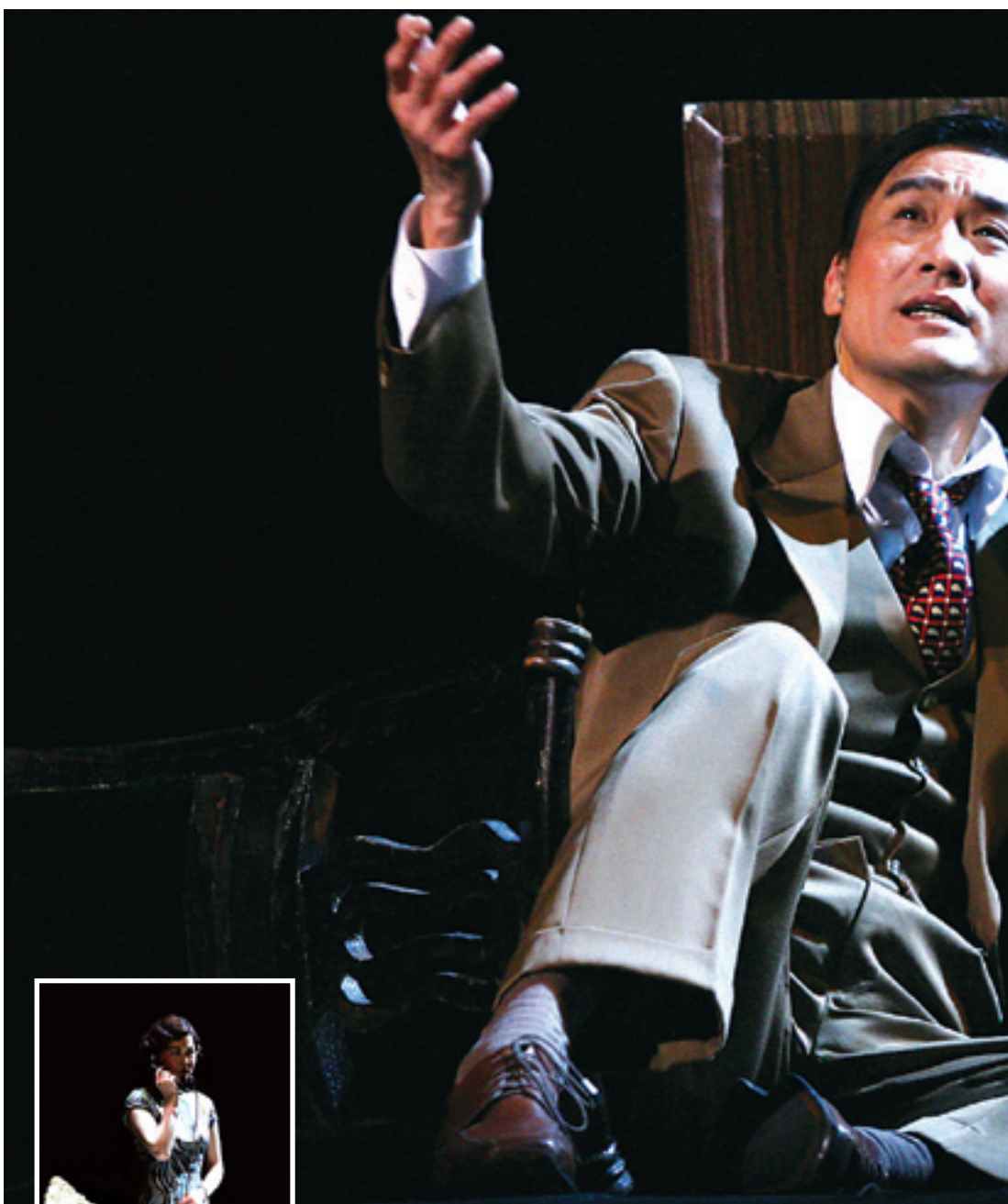
Fredric Mao, the director, chose *Fallen City* for a chance to add new blood to the old story.

In 2002, the drama was shown in Hong Kong. The actor who played Fan was Xie Junhao. "I was terribly sick at that time, and could not make it the best. So last year, I chose Leung to be Fan for his appearance and the way he is, although he is so new to the drama stage. The new



Eileen Chang's novel *Love in a Fallen City* for the stage. Now a Hong Kong drama production, decorated with an all-star cast, has moved audiences moved?

WHEN THE CITY



production is more sensitive and earthy," Mao said.

"This drama starts from the most basic and simplest thing, which, for a drama, is very difficult. We are not pursuing the standards of technology, artistic conversation or anything stimulating. We use a new form, the 'two Bais'. One is Louisa, the other is Alice, a singer,

who appears as the storyteller and critic. The dance and songs are not showing off. What we want is just difference. And difference will bring distance, barrier and disruption, in a word, more interest."

Alice Lau performed as the singer who connects the whole story. "The director said my role was very important. I am the com-





allen City is among the most adapted drama group has brought a new ver-
st. When the city fell in Beijing, were

Y FALLS



Leung Ka Fai as Fan Liuyuan and Louisa So as Bai Liusu



Fredric Mao (standing) adds new blood to the old story.

Photos by Tian Yufeng



A love tango

A DRAMA WITH CULTURE

"This is a drama with culture, because it has a director who knows culture, which makes the drama valuable. It does not follow Zhang Ailing's story. Zhang is already the past. We can feel the nostalgia of old Shanghai, but share the feeling in a modern angle. I can see a Hong Kong spirit there. The drama proves that Hong Kong culture, individual culture and the culture of Hong Kong Repertory Theater worth our appreciation."

Tong Daoming, Drama critic

CANTONESE DRAMA HAS A BARRIER

"The conversation in Cantonese is an obvious barrier between the audience and the performance. Many audiences had to lift their head to read the Mandarin subtitles and missed the expression on the players' faces or their gestures. For the Beijing audience, the style of Cantonese drama is perhaps a little bit plain.

Besides, there were too many blackouts, thus the switch of time and space seems clumsy. The audiences' mood was often interrupted."

Guo Jia, Journalist

LEUNG LACKS SMARTNESS, BUT MORE REALISM

"I've seen the movie directed by Xu Anhua and played by Zhou Runfa and Miu Qianren in 1984. Compared with Zhou, Leung lacks the smartness but looks more like a businessman; of course the role of Fan is a businessman. So is pretty and attractive enough to be Bai, just not that Shanghai style. Still I love the match of Leung and So, and expected more chemistry between them."

Venus Wong, Hong Kong viewer

CHINESE PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

"There is a sophistication in the drama, reminding me of something in Jane Austin's Pride and Prejudice. It is the first time I felt so lucky to be able to understand Cantonese. Zhang's narration is always spicy and sophisticated, however, I saw a much plain and realistic romance made in Hong Kong. Even having read the story hundreds of times, I was still moved by the Fan and Bai in this drama. In a day of instant relationships overflowing, Love in a Fallen City again brings back the nostalgia of the earthy and consistent romance."

Jane Wang, Journalist

ATTRACTIVE

"I've never read the novel. The drama was attractive. I adore the way the director switches the time and space so smoothly."

Cui Jing, student of performance, Beijing Film Academy

ination of Zhang Ailing, Bai Liusu and our director Mao. What I did was to tell the audience another voice in Bai's heart, to show her internal world."

Music plays an important role in the drama, not only to refresh the form. Alice herself was also moved by the lyrics. "I love the song *When You Said You Love Me*. When I

sang it in the studio, my producer cried. I guess this is a problem for all women. We have lost the confidence of true love."

Worries never left the whole group before they finished the first show in Beijing. Language is the first problem. Few audiences can understand Cantonese. "We felt a kind of responsibility to present our

culture," said Leung.

Beijing's audience is famed for being picky and knowledgeable. During the premiere on May 17, silence filled the whole theater. Mao was sweating. Slowly, applause rose, thundering finally. "Now we understand that Beijing's audiences are good at controlling their passion," he laughed.

On May 19, the star-studded movie *The Da Vinci Code*, based on the best-selling book by Dan Brown, unveiled its mystique to the whole world. With performances by top actors like Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen and Jean Reno from the US, UK and France. It's a gamble to adapt a bestseller. See reviews.

Not as good as the book

Shelley Xie, freelancer

During the two-and-half-hour film, director Ron Howard goes over the key points of the novel, which means the movie can make sense to audiences who have not read the book. Professor Langdon (Hanks) is in Paris on business when he's summoned to the Louvre. A dead man, who mentioned Langdon's name before he died, has been discovered. With the assistance of a French cryptographer and government agent Sophie (Tautou), the professor has to decipher a chain of cryptic codes and puzzles, while trying to stay ahead of lawmen Fache (Reno) and Silas (Bettany) in the chase.

I still remember the breathtaking atmosphere when I first read the thriller one year ago. It absorbed my consciousness and I wanted to finish it in one sitting. I even looked at Leonardo's *Last Supper* in an album that my grandpa brought home when he was in Italy several years ago to see whether Sir Leigh Teabing's words were true.

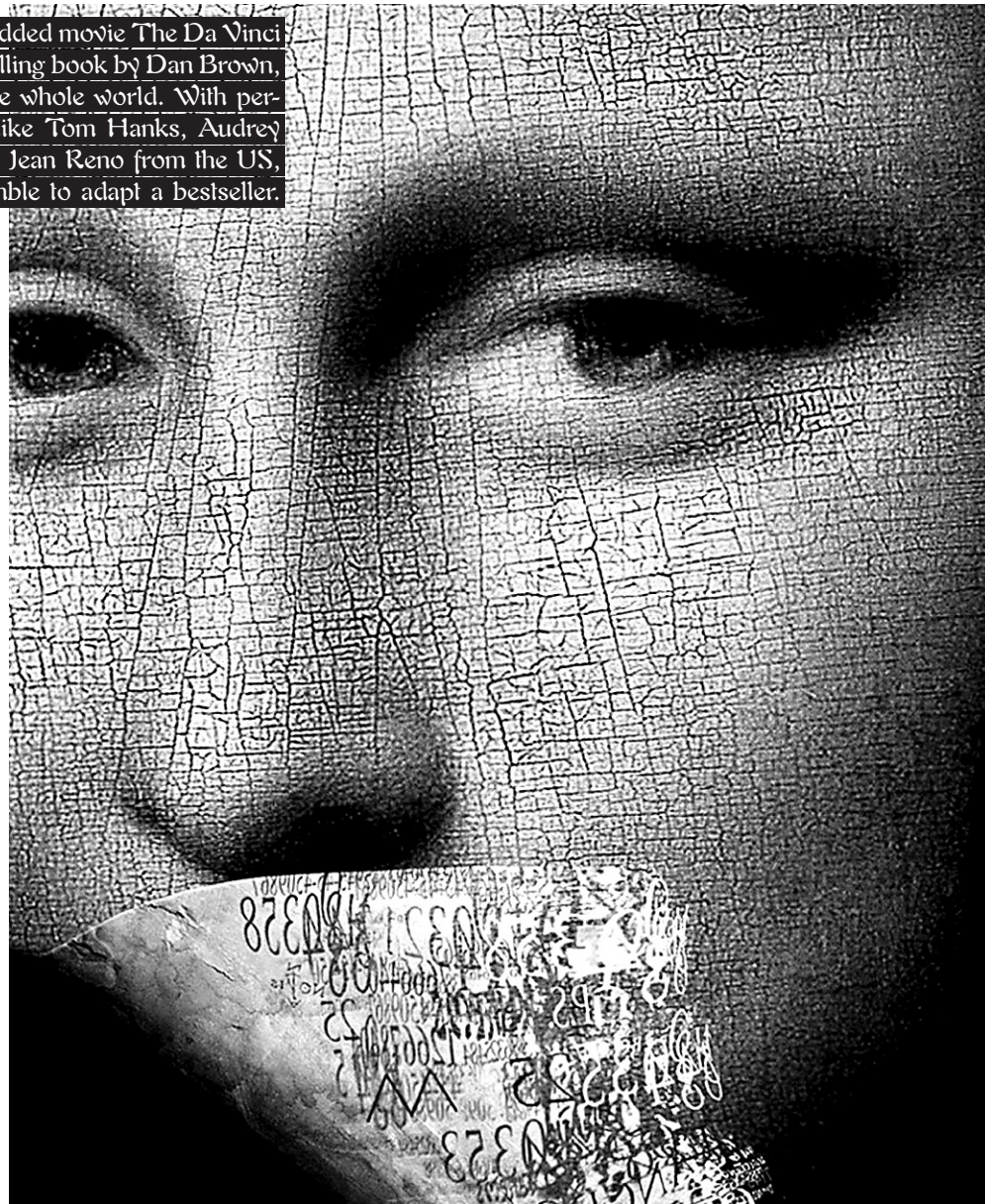
To trace the source of a belief and the religious history that is unfamiliar to me, I think Dan Brown was successful. But what about Ron Howard? I have to admit that when people know the answers before the movie starts, half of the mystery has already been lost and the wow factor is ruined. However, at the end, Ron does not include the character of Sophie's brother, as in the book, which was a surprise.

A marvelous movie

Yufexian, networm

First is the entertainment factor. For audiences who are looking for fun, the movie offers suspense from the very beginning, big stars, lavish locations, interesting details, and conflict throughout the story. In addition, it gives us a new way to look at the history.

Second is the storytelling skill. In my eyes, the movie reveals an uncertainty to us, which kept me thinking all the time. Does Sophie have superpowers? Why do they emphasize that only a qualified person can solve the secret? Are they 'the ones' who are destined to unveil the secret? Is Langdon



The Da Vinci Code

Promoting or poisoning the bestseller?

Da Vinci Code deserves kudos for being a smart thriller in era of dumb movies

William Arnold, a US movie critic

The bottom line on the \$125 million screen version of Dan Brown's controversial, mega-bestseller thriller novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, is that it could have been worse – a lot worse. Considering the immense challenges involved in adapting such a talky tome, the movie struck me as something of a pleasant surprise.

I'm not even completely sure if the movie will be coherent to people who have somehow managed to avoid reading the novel (if any such people exist). By necessity, the adaptation sheds large chunks of the saga and elements

of the puzzle that shifts the action from place to place.

On the other hand, the film has an exciting visual texture that gives body to Brown's bestseller prose, and uniformly strong performances that give dimension, depth and interest to characters that the author never entirely brought to life. In this sense, I found it much more entertaining and satisfying than the novel.

Copies the book yet loses the essential core

Meisibu from Tianjin

For a story that most of the audience may already know, Howard emphasizes the story as an adventure. However, in my opinion, readers want to reproduce the feelings they had when they read the book. So, what's the thrilling point of the book?

I think the novel isn't really about adventure, but something that turns common senses upside down. Choosing the puzzle format makes sure that readers are kept interested. But, the movie, because of its audio-visual nature, tells all the religious histories and the sparkling reasoning processes in a direct fashion. The result is people who know the story are not excited.

What's on



Ta Ke La Ma Gan

Showtime: May 26, 2006

Cheng Cheng is a cop who has dreams of riding a motorcycle to Xinjiang. Ya Dan, a tour guide, hopes to explore an ancient city in the Taklimakan Desert, Xinjiang. They meet because of a criminal Ding Hui, and fall in love. What will happen in the desert between the cop, the criminal and the woman?



Ice Age 2: The Meltdown

Showtime: June 9, 2006

The Ice Age is coming to an end, and the animals are delighting in the melting paradise that is their new world. Manny, Sid, and Diego quickly learn that the warming climate has one major drawback: a huge glacial dam is about to break, threatening the entire valley. The only chance of survival lies at the other end of the valley.



Poseidon

Showtime: June 2006

While ringing in the New Year aboard the cruise ship *Poseidon*, a giant wave crashes into the ship and flips it upside down. A ragtag group of survivors realize their only chance is to make their way to the deepest bowels of the ship, if they are going to have any chance of getting out.

By Shelley Xie

Modern art, murder and the mentally challenged



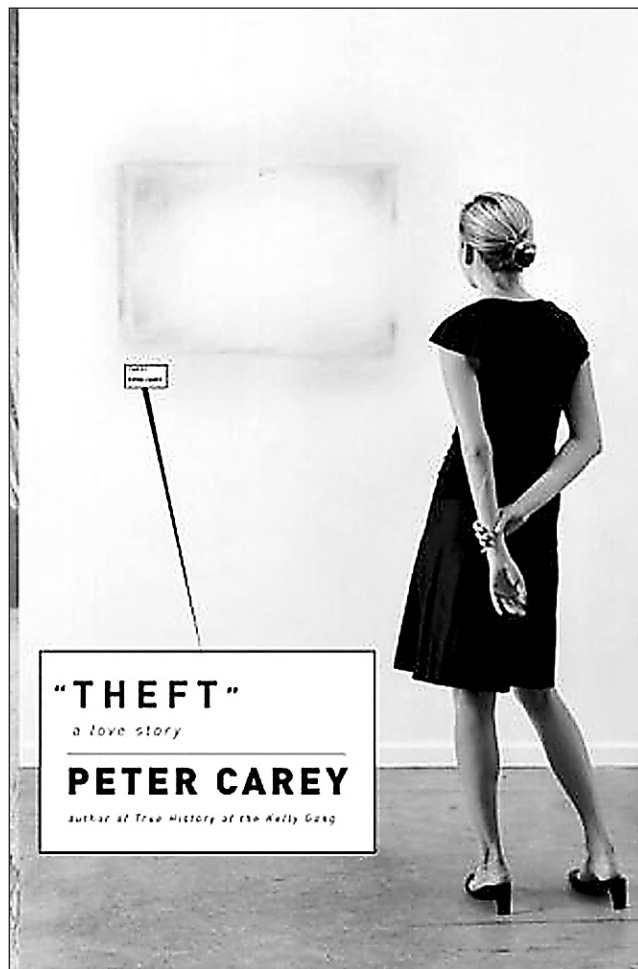
Peter Carey

Theft: A Love Story

By Peter Carey

Key issues: the global art trade, greed and love

Australian author Peter Carey, winner of the Booker Prize in 1988 for *Oscar and Lucinda* and 2001 for *True History of the Kelly Gang*, mines the pricey world of modern art in his latest novel, *Theft: A Love Story*, set in Australia and New York City.



So what's the plot?

Michael Boone is a "formerly famous" artist. His biggest collector sets him up as caretaker of his country estate in New South Wales, hoping he'll regain some of his former brilliance. Accompanying Michael is his mentally challenged brother Hugh. Into their somewhat humdrum existence drops Marlene Leibovitz, the daughter-in-law of the famous abstract expressionist, Jacques Leibovitz. Marlene's husband has inherited the right to authenticate his deceased father's works. Marlene's larcenous side leads her to steal and alter real Leibovitz paintings, and to get Michael to produce fakes-no scheme is too over-the-top for Carey's pen

— Deborah Donovan, *BookPage*

Mentally challenged brother, famous expressionist, authenticated artwork...I'm lost already...

The book is an interesting but uneven mix of novel and thesis. The latter is Carey's exploration of the contemporary art world and his conclusion that it is largely sham and lemming-like snobbery. The first is the double custard pie he launches at it: two inflamed working-class Australians, one a brilliant but unfashionable painter, the other the partly autistic and unpredictably inspired brother who lives with him in a state of odd mutual dependence

— Richard Eder, *Boston Globe*

Custard pies and lemmings eh? Does he talk about anything else?

"As always, Mr Carey has valuable things to say about the dilemmas and temptations of the provincial artist. It is

too bad that, in *Theft*, he has chosen such an awkward way of saying them."

— Adam Kirsch, *The New York Sun*

Awkward? In what way?

"*Theft* lapses into the equivalent of a slaughterhouse expose told from the viewpoint of one of its bovine victims. The complicated Leibovitz subplot, which eventually becomes the main plot and culminates in a murder, is engaging enough, but seems more suited to a seasoned writer of thrillers — Michael Crichton comes to mind — who wouldn't bother to scramble the hard, factual surface of the narrative with irrelevancies like atmosphere and characterization."

— Paul Gray, *The New York Times Book Review*

So he's drawn up some

interesting characters?

"All in all, Carey's new show contains much that is lively, engaging and teasingly self-referential. The best exhibit, however, seems to have very little to do with the slippery world where Butcher and Marlene try to pull the wool over the eyes of sundry experts and know-alls. This is Hugh, or Slow Bones, Butcher's younger brother, a shambling, meat-loving, farting nutter, a clog at his brother's heels, who commands the wisdom and clear-sightedness of the simple-minded. (...) In a wonderfully idiosyncratic diction, mingling the argot of rural Australia with urban slang, throbbing with all manner of echoes"

— Andrew Reimer, *Sydney Morning Herald*

And what about the narrative?

"While the voices of the

Boone brothers leap off the page with their originality, there is something a little unrelenting about the two-handed narrative. It certainly leaves Marlene out in the cold. (...) *Theft* still seems to sacrifice the odd character for the sake of a narrative line."

— Sophie Ratcliffe, *The Times*

So the odd character is sacrificed for the sake of the narrative...does that make it a bad read?

"Butcher has a raw, comic voice, but the thrilling narrative drive that propelled Carey's previous work gets mired here. Even when the story does move along — to Japan, then New York — we experience much of it as though we're standing too close to an impressionist canvas: It's vibrant, it's colorful, but what the hell is going on? All this is intentional, of course; Carey wants to challenge the logic of our perceptions, and he's certainly clever enough to do so. (...) Between these two fraternal perspectives, one skewed by desire, the other by a brain disorder, Carey frames a story that shifts before our eyes — maddeningly complex, hypnotically brilliant, entirely original."

— Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*

Cunning. So what does the story tell us about ourselves?

"*Theft* is unsettling and erratic, yet eventually develops a straightforward tale of the intrigue of art and love. Whether examining society, the global art trade or just relationships between brothers and between men and women, Carey seems to argue that our desire to cheat, self-destruct and even kill for love and power remains charged."

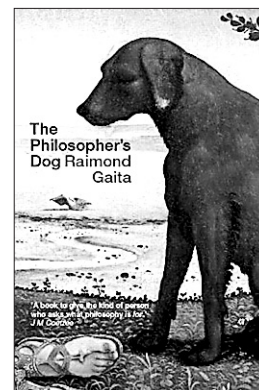
— Christine Thomas, *San Francisco Chronicle*
By Tom Mackenzie

Local shelf

Half Way Up the Mountain
By Kiran Khalap
Marion Boyars Publishers,
224 pages, 130 yuan

A poetic work about a mountain girl Maya. She fights her fate in a traditional Indian family. However, when her husband refuses to believe their son is his, in an Indian society that places no value on a woman on her own, what will be Maya's fate?

The Philosopher's Dog
By Raimond Gaita



Routledge, 224 pages, 160 yuan

Telling stories of the dogs, cats, spiders, butterflies and bees we care for as our animal companions, the author brings his philosophy of the family relationship, especially his father's antipathy for insects.

Available: Beijing Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6586 9507

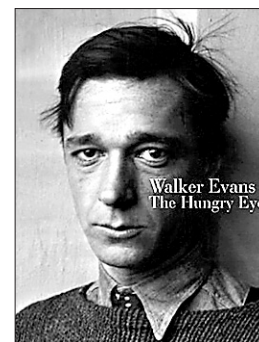
Too Fast for Love

By David Yellen and Chuck Klosterman
PowerHouse Books, 144 pages, 315 yuan

Rocking on tour with America's heavy metal superstars-Kiss, Poison, Iron Maiden, Slaughter, Ted Nugent, Dokken, and Cinderella-photographer David Yellen tailgated among the headbangers, metalheads, and burnouts. Yellen captured a moment frozen in hairspray chock-full of mullets, bleached perms, spandex cat suits, denim cutoffs, more pleather than you can imagine

Walker Evans: The Hungry Eye

By John T. Hill and Gilles Mora



Harry N Abrams, 368 pages, 315 yuan

The first book by one of America's greatest photographers to survey every significant aspect of the artist's oeuvre. Three hundred duotone photographs included.

Available: Timezone 8 Art books, Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 64004427

By Wang Xiaoyuan

What is Permaculture?

Permaculture is both a set of ideas and a way of living. It focuses on why and how to set up self-sustaining systems and processes, and it applies to many facets of society from urban design to exchanging goods and services to the way people interact with animals, down to growing as much of our own food as possible. Permaculture seeks lifestyle changes that will reduce pollution and energy use, improve health, and strengthen our spiritual connection with the earth and knowledge of our place in it.

The term was coined by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren a couple of decades ago to denote 'permanent agriculture,' or forest gardening. Since then, permaculture's many supporters have redefined the term as 'permanent culture,' a concept that embraces many interlinked aspects of sustainable living.



"Permaculture is more than a new way of gardening - it's a sustainable way to live on planet Earth."

— Bill Mollison, an Australian ecologist and founder of the permaculture movement



Permaculture

helping to create a sustainable world

In the mountains of northeastern Thailand, a quiet revolution is taking place. A diverse group of people who came together to construct a sustainable village have found that they are building much more. They spent a month in rural Chaiyaphum province, building Mun Yuen, a sustainable, self-sufficient community, and the nation's first earthen village. "We built a community, not just houses," said Thanai Uthapattakoon, who quit his job as a conventional architect to teach and learn natural building. Here in Mun Yuen, thatch roofs provide shelter from sun and rain. The villagers wanted to avoid contributing to deforestation, and they wanted to build simply and cheaply.

This community is unique in Thailand. It is the first in which the residences have intentionally chosen to establish a collective, democratic model of self-reliance, rather than following the rush toward 'modernization.' The village is already serving as a demonstration and learning center. It is open to students of ecology and natural building as well as anyone else who is interested. The residents have begun a reforestation project, planting thousands of fruit and hardwood trees. Mun Yuen seems certain to live up to its name - 'long lasting.'

More and more people have started living an eco-friendly and sustainable life, becoming part of Permaculture.

Who are 'Permaculturists'?

Thick with trees and shrubs, the jungle echoes with the songs of wild birds and the tropical fruit trees are laden with fruit. But a glance shows an apple tree in bloom next to a banana tree. A cold climate tree here? As we will come to see, this is no ordinary jungle: it is a man-made ecosystem. The longer people continue to work in an ecosystem, the more they become a part of that ecosystem. These people are called 'Permaculturists.'

For instance, Hollywood actress Daryl Hannah insists mil-

lions of people could follow her example of driving a car fuelled by vegetable oil - they just need a diesel engine. The *Kill Bill* beauty, based primarily in Colorado, lives an environmentally friendly existence with a solar-powered home. And when she leaves the confines of her house, she drives around in her 1983 EL CAMINO, which has had no special work done to it to get it running on bio-diesel. She says, "It doesn't cause greenhouse gases and has lower carbon dioxide and all the other emissions."



How to start Permaculture living

How we live is a big part of the problem. It can also be a big part of the solution, if we adopt more environmentally sustainable lifestyles. That means exercising more care, or stewardship, in our use of the Earth's finite resources (trees, water, energy, minerals, land) to ensure that there will be enough left for our children and their children.

Here are a few places a person could start to make lifestyle changes that move toward the permaculture frame of mind:

Change how you eat!

Eat fewer animal products and choose products made from free-range animals untreated with hormones. Purchase locally grown or made foods from regional farmers and other small producers. Grow more of your own food in a low-maintenance perennial edibles garden.

Strengthen your ties!

Choose to participate in active

and interactive rather than passive entertainments. Volunteer within your community. Spend less time and energy on things, making more room in your life for relationships and activities.

Reduce your waste!

Opt out of mailings you don't want or read to limit paper waste. Maintain things well and keep them longer. Carpool, work at home, or walk/bike/bus to work more often.

Compost your kitchen scraps and yard waste for your garden. Relax your standards where any kind of fashion is concerned.

Help to reinvent your community!

Learn about smart growth. Read *Superbia!* for practical steps you can take to modify your existing neighborhood or design a new one. Read *A Pattern Language* to learn how buildings and landscapes influence our quality of life.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)



An observer of behavior

Turkish designer Hussein Chalayan creates a Muslim wave in the fashion world

Clothing: a cultural dialogue

Born in Nicosia in 1970, Hussein left the divided Greek/Turkish island of Cyprus for school in England when he was 12. His childhood in Cyprus, where the cultures of east and west have a deep impact, influenced him to unite the two together and to open dialogues between them – without hinting, as politicians often do, that one is superior to the other.

"I was shocked when I was described as a Muslim designer – yet I think it's wonderful that there is a fashion designer called Hussein," he said, emphasizing the duality of work grown from his Turkish roots and Anglo-Saxon education.

Describing his work, Hussein said, "I have certain cultural observations that I filter through and I try to propose new ways of looking at certain issues. A lot of the times it may have to do with cultural prejudice, it may have to do with politics, it may have to do with emotions."

His exploration of the chador (the black outer garment worn by Muslim women), of Muslim veils and of the female body sparked on his catwalks under the focuses of displacement and identity, isolation and oppression, and the dislocation of refugees – "Between" in 1998 ended with models, from naked to totally covered, all wearing chadors, "Before Minus Now" in 2000 focused on mankind, technology and nature, "Afterwords" of Autumn/Winter 2000-2001, referred to the reality of the refugee, and "Manifest Destiny" of Spring/Summer 2003 that was inspired by the idea of America imposing its western ideology.

Readings:

Harem: The World Behind the Veil by Alev Lytle Croutier (1998)

Inside the Seraglio: Private Lives of the Sultans in Istanbul by John Freely (2001)

Can a fashion designer make a stitch of difference to the wider world? We believe so after following the journey of the Britian-based Turkish/Cypriot designer Hussein Chalayan.

His inspiration comes from various disciplines such as anthropology, architecture and philosophy. As one of the most innovative, experimental and conceptual contemporary fashion designers, Hussein is a kind of paradox who is "not really interested in fashion".

When still a student at Central Saint Martins in London, a teacher is reputed to have advised him to switch to the sculpture course. Ever since his now infamous graduation show in 1993 – *The Tangent Flows* (textiles that were buried in a back garden and then dug up again), his name has been associated far beyond the conventional field of fashion, and located him at the interface between fashion and art.

Hussein says: "For me, the ultimate goal is to use clothes as a medium to respond to certain things in the world, through events, and through the way the clothes are created. But it's not just clothing: there're other things to do with life and the heart."



Master of space

No longer regarded as mere structures for living, working or wearing, both garments and buildings have become metaphors for urban life.

Hussein's designs are informed by a concentration on how the body functions within the world around it both in terms of physical space, and the environment.

His renowned collection for Winter 2001 collection, chairs folded into suitcases, their slip-covers turned into dresses, and a round coffee table composed of concentric wooden rings famously

expanded accordion style into a skirt. At his spring 2001 show in London, live models smashed dresses made of brittle sugar-glass on the catwalk, echoing the movement of wire-frame figures that were exploding on digital animation on sidewalls.

"People see that I'm interested in structure and call my clothes architectural," said Hussein. "I'm interested in architecture as theory."

Readings:

The Fashion of Architecture by Bradley Quinn (2004)



Ten Years' Work Retrospective

In July last year, the Groninger Museum presented a Hussein Chalayan retrospective, covering his first ten years of career. There were outfits, installations and photographic and video work, illustrating the diverse aspects of his genius.

For instance, photos of *Ambimorphous* (Autumn/Winter 02-03), a project that covers cultural change, were shown as a kind of journey from one culture to another – patches of ethnic Turkish embroidery appeared faded on a series of black dresses.

Marcus Tomlinson, a video artist made the video work *Tribe Art Commission 2/Hussein Chalayan/Pace to Passage*, a journey from London to Istanbul.

Readings

Hussein Chalayan by Hussein Chalayan, Caroline Evans, Suzy Menkes 2005

Hussein Chalayan and labels

With outfits composed of secret structures and conceptions under the surface, Hussein has limited his conceptual excursions to his own label. When working on assignments for others, he has always produced dazzlingly wearable fashion, such as the British clothes chain Asprey, the New York label TSE and for Top Shop.

Shopping info:

Hussein Chalayan's flagship store: 1-4-8 Aobadai, Meguro-ku, 153-0042, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 5728 6022
Fax: +81 3 5728 6025
Asprey: www.asprey.com
TSE: tsecashmere.com
Top Shop: www.topshop.co.uk

(By Shelley Xie)



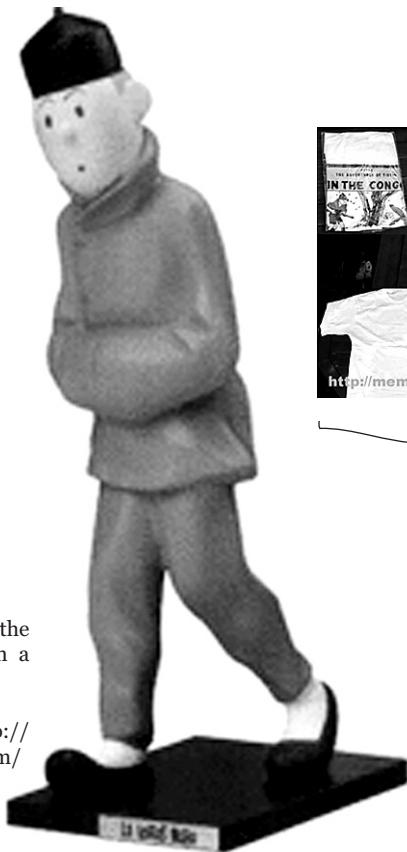
Catch Tintin

Seventy-seven years ago, a young Belgian journalist and his white dog started their adventures around the world. He has unruly hair, a round nose like a little potato and a memorable name: Tintin. As a journalist, Tintin never records what people say, but observes, listens, investigates, and uncovers the truth behind the characters he encounters. Nothing dilutes Tintin's curiosity. He and Milou (Snowy in English), his little dog, have traveled across Africa, America, China, and have even been to the moon. He fears no one, even the powerful, which makes him a hero of peace and justice, and one of the most famous Belgians in the world alongside his cre-

ator, Hergé (1907-1983), the cartoonist master.

If you have a chance to visit Guilin in Guangxi, don't miss the chance to have a cup of coffee or beer in the only Tintin bar there. You will sit on Tintin, eat Tintin, drink Tintin, and of course, talk Tintin.

Although Tintin has only been to China on one occasion (see *The Adventures of Tintin: The Blue Lotus*), the number of his fans is growing every year. Tintin fans have a huge range of products to fuel their passion: books, DVDs, video tapes, toys and more!



Tintin icons

Tintin appears from the Chinese huge vase, as in a scene in *The Blue Lotus*.

Price: 50 yuan

Available: <http://shop10337928.taobao.com/>



Tintin T-Shirts

T-shirts in all sizes. 100% cotton. Considered to be the uniform of Tintin's fans. At least it means you will recognize each other at first glance.

Price: 30 yuan

Available: in Xidan Shopping Mall, Longfusi Walking Street



Swatch: Les Aventures de Tintin

The colorful design presents Tintin with a confused expression. The bottom of this watch is orange and Tintin's hair comes off the surface of the watch and up to the strap. Very unruly, isn't it?

Price: 380 yuan

Available: Any Swatch store or section in Beijing



Milou Puppy

Have a Milou for the Year of the Dog? This cute puppy, 32x32 cm is available in white and gray. It feels good to touch and is very soft and comfortable.

Price: 65 yuan

Available: <http://shop33454228.taobao.com/>



Happy Birthday Tintin: Swatch's celebration of Tintin's 75th anniversary:

The black and white design is a classical Tintin Swatch, mimicking the original pages of Tintin's cartoon series. The black shadow of Tintin in the high-collar raincoat holding a pistol reflects the mystery of the watch and the spirit of adventure.

Price: 600 yuan

Available: <http://shop33120626.taobao.com/>

The Adventures of Tintin Complete Collection

Color print. Published by Chinese Teenager's News Publishing House, 22 books in total.

Price: 220 yuan

Any bookstore in Beijing.



The Adventures of Tintin DVD series

High quality. 863 minutes. Chinese, English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles.

Price: 70 yuan

Available: Guomei stores in Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Why I love cheesecake

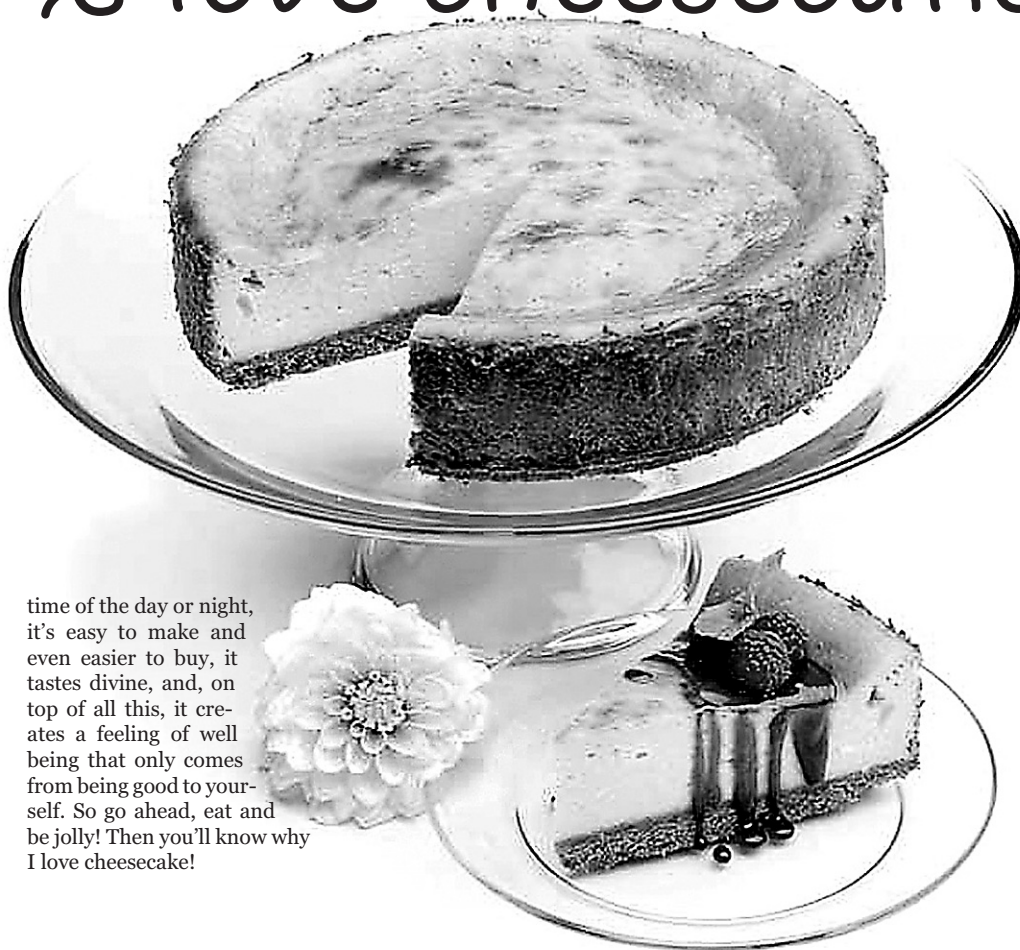
By Chu Meng

What could be more soothing to the soul, tummy filling and sociable than having a piece of cheesecake? These are just some of the reasons why I love cheesecake. Just thinking about cheesecake makes my mouth water for a big piece of the light, airy confection made with a graham cracker crust and smooth creamy vanilla filling, with a favorite topping of cherries or strawberries or blueberries or streusel, or whatever you like. Then you will know why I love cheesecake.

The first documented cheesecake was at an Olympic Games in the seventh century in Greece. It then spread to other European countries and eventually made its way to North America when immigrants crossed the ocean to seek their fortune. Little did they know that the recipe they brought with them would eventually lead to a huge following of people who love cheesecake and would balloon into a multimillion-dollar industry all over the globe.

So what's not to love about cheesecake? It can be eaten any-

time of the day or night, it's easy to make and even easier to buy, it tastes divine, and, on top of all this, it creates a feeling of well being that only comes from being good to yourself. So go ahead, eat and be jolly! Then you'll know why I love cheesecake!



Give in to your cheesecake cravings

By Chu Meng

Tasty-Taste is one of my favorite restaurants. Quietly hidden in a green corner between the chaos of the Workers' Stadium and the Workers' Gymnasium, it has the longest history of all dessert stores in the city, and definitely serves the best cheesecakes and coffee.

It's tidy and orderly decor, with only creamy white and dark brown colors, perfectly matches the taste of cheese and coffee. The minimalist decor helps to highlight the lines of yummy cheesecakes on the shiny counters.

Let's begin with the store's traditional flavors. The Classic! The True New York style cheesecake made with only the freshest ingredients for a smooth, creamy and unparalleled experience. Mocha Cappuccino Cheesecake is the three C's: coffee, chocolate and cheesecake! These three tastes blend wonderfully for a peerless dessert for those with extravagant taste.

Then try some specialty flavors. A delicious peanut butter cheesecake, a generous layer of Peanut Butter Cups chunks, topped with chocolate and peanut butter swirled cheesecake! A perfect union of candy and cheesecake that will make you wonder why no one came up with it sooner!

Tasty-Taste

Where: the North Gate of Workers' Gymnasium, North Road Workers' stadium, Dongcheng

Open: 10am- midnight

Tel: 6551 1822, 6553 7121

Best cheesecake recipes

Cheesecake.com
<http://www.cheesecake.com/>

That's my home
<http://www.thatsmyhome.com/cheesecake/index.htm>

Cheesecake recipes
<http://www.cheesecake-recipes.com/cheesecake/recipe-2.html>

Cooks recipes of cheesecake
<http://www.cooksrecipes.com/recipes/cheesecake-recipes.html>

Le Palais, the city's first Belgian desert lounge

By Chu Meng

Looking to get seriously boozed up? If you prefer a glass of sparkling wine accompanied by chocolate cheesecake and dessert, perhaps a visit to Le Palais is in order.

Billed as the only Belgian-style dessert lounge in Beijing, Le Palais serves tasty cheesecakes. The emphasis here is on traditional cakes as well as new creations by their Belgian pastry chef, and there's a wide variety of flavors, ranging from raspberry to coffee to coconut and, of course, Belgian chocolate.

The owners have carefully selected drinks that complement



atmosphere.

La Palais

Where: 1/F, Zhuzong Plaza, 25 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang

Open: Mon - Thu 8am-10pm;
Fri 8am-11pm; Sat 11am-11pm;
Sun 11am-10pm

Tel: 6508 4209

the cake selection, which means chilled prosecco and top-shelf liquor instead of beer. While the desserts are unmistakably Belgian, the decor is minimalist and jazz music rounds off the lounge



Best ever sour cream cheesecake

Ingredients:

3 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup of sugar
1/2 cup of butter
5 packages (8 oz each) cream cheese, softened
1 1/2 cups of sugar
3 tablespoons of flour
1 teaspoon of grated lemon peel
1/2 teaspoon of vanilla
5 eggs and 2 yolks
1/2 cup of heavy cream
1 cup of sour cream
1 can corn cereal pie filling (any flavor)

To make the crust: In a medium bowl, with hands or the back of spoon, mix graham cracker crumbs with sugar and soft butter. Press the mixture on the bottom and sides of a 9-inch spring form pan, forming a rim all around. Refrigerate until needed. Preheat oven to 500°F.

To make the filling: In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, combine cream cheese, sugar, flour, lemon peel and vanilla. Beat at high speed to

blend. Beat in eggs and egg yolks, one at a time. Add cream, beating until well combined. Pour into the crust-lined pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 250°F and bake for 1 hour longer. Let cool in the pan on a wire rack. Spread sour cream over the top. Then, top with Cornstock pie filling (your choice). Refrigerate for 3 hours or overnight. With spatula, loosen crust from sides of pan. Remove side of spring form pan.



Bento and Berries

By Chu Meng

Workers in the CBD are no doubt accustomed to mid-afternoon malaise, those agonizing post-lunch hours when the grease settles in, the MSG wears off and all the blood in the body rushes straight to the stomach. Hence the appeal of Bento and Berries, the Kerry Center's new health-conscious dessert and beverage outlet.

Their signature New York cheesecake smothered with rich white chocolate and loaded with white chocolate chunks is an elegant gesture. A magnificent, creamy blend of espresso, pure kahlua liqueur, and the New York cheesecake over a chocolate graham cracker crust is simply delightful.

Sporting a bright and trendy design, the combination cheesecakes, bakery, cafe and deli-takeout offers food and drink as diverse as its target market: Lavazza Coffee (21 yuan for a cup, 15 yuan for a single espresso), fine imported wine and beer, a decadent display of gourmet cheesecakes (18 yuan a slice), salads (18-28 yuan), sandwiches and paninis (22-26 yuan), and Japanese deli and snack items.

Bento and Berries

Where: 1/F, Kerry Center, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 7am-11pm.

Tel: 6561 8833 ext 45



The 1,300 year old banyan tree

This week Cookie Wu continues her journey in Guangxi. Now she arrives at Zhaoxing

Zhaoxing – the No.1 Dong village in China

By Cookie Wu

Scenery Old Banyan Tree

The road from Sanjiang to Zhaoxing is along the limp Duliujiang River. Many old banyan trees line the way.

Arriving at Chankou, I rushed to the roadside and had a close look at a spectacular 1,300 year old Banyan tree. I'd never seen a huge tree like that. The trunk is so thick that even 12 people would find it hard to embrace. And the tree crown, which stretches from the roadside to the river, shelters an area of 2,300 square meters. Under it, I felt myself a tiny ant under a huge cauliflower. The bus bumped its way again. The old tree was like a calm grandfather, standing there still.

Zhaoxing villiage

Zhaoxing is a Dong village situated in the Duliu Basin. It's remarkably beautiful, nestled in a steep valley and surrounded by terraced rice fields not far from the Guangxi border.

This village is composed of five small hamlets. Each of the villages is independent. Almost all the village buildings are entirely built of wood, such as drum towers, theater stages, Diaojiaolou and 'flower bridges'.

There are five drum towers in the village, named 'Ren', 'Yi', 'Li', 'Zhi', and 'Xin' respectively. They represent kindness, righteousness, politeness, intellect and creditworthiness.

Diaojiao lou in Zhaoxing features a public passage on the ground floor. People live in the houses built along the passage. With these passages and the five pavilion bridges, people can walk from one end of the village to the other without ever being exposed to the elements.

The best way to spend your time in Zhaoxing is to stroll around the village, especially walking along the corridor (sometimes you have to make way for ducks or buffalo) between the riverside and Dong people's residents, playing with



Rolling fields

local kids under the drum tower or just dozing on the flower bridge when it drizzles.

Dong's folk song

During my stay in Zhaoxing, I chanced to experience the Dong's folk song competition 'Yue Gong Ga' during the May holiday.

It is said Dong is home to more than 10 types of folk songs, sung at different occasions – dating, spinning, sitting in a group, drinking, inviting people to drink – all have different song types.

The list is long but the Dong folk song, a chorus style song sung by a group of villagers, is regarded as the best. The Chinese government has applied for Dage music to be listed as a UNESCO Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Dage can be sung by as little as three or as many as dozens and even hundreds of singers without musical accompaniment.

Groups of Dong girls sing their songs under the drum tower – the landmark of the village. The songs are natural and moving. Such a big group of singers manages to do such a large chorus in harmonies with no instruments accompanying, even with no conductor. The Dong people have an innate ability to express themselves through music and singing is their way of getting close to people quickly.

What to eat in Zhaoxing

Oil Tea: The favorite drink of the Dong people. Fragrant and sweet, it's effective for refreshing the mind and keeping a cool head. It's also supposed to expel damp fever, and prevent and cure the flu and diarrhea. It is not only important in Dong people's daily life, but also indispensable for them to show hospitality to guests.

The process of making oil tea is interesting. First fry a quantity of leaf tea, add water and boil it into a thick salty soup adding puffed rice, soybeans, fried peanuts, chopped green onions and a quantity of lean meat.

Ci Ba or Tuan Fan: Kneaded sticky rice balls or rice rolls, grilled or fried. When festivals or special occasions come, the Dong people dye the rice into different colors with natural plant juice.

Vegetables: The daily vegetables for the Dong people are very abundant. Besides fresh vegetables, different kinds of potherbs are also popular among Dong people. Wild celery, Zheergen, and other nameless potherbs can easily be found at the Dong table.

Sour food: The Dong pickle almost anything edible to create a sour flavor. They salt and pickle vegetables, pork, beef, chicken duck and fish. For them, the longer something is preserved, the more delicious the food will be. Not every visitor agrees!

Most of the little restaurants have no menu. They will open the refrigerator and ask you to choose directly. Usually the price for each dish is 5 to 10 yuan. In Zhaoxing a lot of dog meat is served.

San Xiao: A very nice restaurant, near the post office. English menu available.



In Zhaoxing villiage



Photos by Cookie Wu

Transportation

From Sanjiang: First take the coach to Liping, get off at Baluo and wait at the crossing for bus to Zhaoxing. It will take you about five hours. The road is bumpy and dangerous but scenic. The whole trip will take you over 20 yuan.

Other routes:

From Congjiang: First take the bus to Luoxiang (two hours, around 10 yuan / person), then transferred to Zhaoxing (30 minutes, 3 yuan/ person), make sure to catch the bus before 5 pm.

From Liping: Three hours drive for 12 yuan. The buses regularly leave at 6:30 am, 12am, and 3:30 pm.

PS: the mountain road in Guizhou often suffers from landslides, so please check with the bus station staff or the local people for bus information in advance.

Accommodation

Newly built wooden family owned inns with the fragrance of firs can be found along the main street. The price is around 20 yuan per person per night.

Recommended:

Lulu's Wooden House Inn, with an eating place on the ground floor and three floors of basic rooms (a bed, a light) and communal toilets of the one-hole variety. Communal shower, too. Self-help laundry and free internet is available. The boss Lu Xinfeng is well-known in Zhaoxing; an easy going man who knows a lot about Dong culture and is good at singing folk songs.

Tel: 0855 - 6130112

The Cottage Inn: next to the post office. English is spoken.

Shopping

Kuding Tea is the best product in the area. I bet you've never seen this kind of tea before. Dong people press them into big round pie shaped cakes.

Bracelets, earbobs and other ornaments in Dong style are also popular and not expensive. Do not expect to find real silver ones for sale. They are handed down by the daughters and granddaughters as their trousseaus.

Embroidery and other handiwork is also good choice.

Weather

The weather is always rainy in Zhaoxing. Every year, averages of 170 days of rain. So take a raincoat.



Photos by FIFAworldcup.com

The Reichstag building, home to the German parliament



Berlin church

The outdoor bar at Unter den Linden.



Spots you should not miss

Berlin Olympic Stadium

The Berlin Olympic Stadium was constructed between 1934 and 1936 for around 42 million Reichsmark. It will be a special experience to enjoy glasses of beer at one of the many bratwurst stands with crowds before entering the stadium for watching the excited matches.

The Berlin Olympic Stadium has hosted its fair share of momentous, epoch-making events, but 9 July 2006 is destined to eclipse everything that has gone before. A global audience of well over a billion is set to follow the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final live on TV.

Reconstruction of the stadium at a cost of 242 million Euros began in the summer of 2000 and completed in July 2004.

Since its reopening in 2004, the stadium has staged football matches and special events on a regular basis with millions of people taking the opportunity to venture inside.

You can explore the Olympic Stadium by participating in a guided tour of the Olympic complex, complete with commentary on the stadium's history and development and that of its surrounding area.

Tickets are easily available from the ticket office at the east gate where you can also find the entrance to the stadium. Only payment by cash is possible at these offices.

Information hotline: +49 (0)30 25 00 23 22

Open: Mon-Fri: 8 am - 7 pm, Sat & Sun & national holidays: 9 am - 6 pm.

Guided Tours of the Olympic Stadium – a glimpse behind the scenes of the FIFA World Cup 2006.

In the 60 minute and 75 minute-long stadium tours there are some areas that the public do not get the chance to see.

You will have chance to visit areas that will be integral to the running of the 2006 FIFA World Cup – the VIP areas, the players' changing rooms and the underground warm-up areas. Stand on the edge of the blue running track and experience the magnificent perspective of a modern stadium, while your guide explains the history and architecture of the Olympiastadion and the role it will play in the World Cup.

Dates: May 6, 2006 to July 31, 2006

Prices: Adults: 6 euro
Children under 6: free of charge

Groups of 10 or more: 5 euro per person

Berlin is the capital city of Germany, both politically and culturally. It is known all over the world for its division and unification; for the Berlin Wall, which divided the east and west Berlin for 38 years; for the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of the city; and for the Unter Den Linden, the avenue represents Berlin's center of knowledge and culture.

Of course, Berlin is also famous as a sports city. Next month, the city will attract the world's attention as it is one of the host cities of the 2006 FIFA World Cup and the final match will take place there in early July. Thirty-two teams from all over the world will gather together in Germany, competing for the FIFA World Cup. The fierce matches will heighten the joyous atmosphere in the city.

Take the World Cup trip in Berlin



The Berlin Olympic Stadium

Photo by mabman11

Soccer bars

If you missed buying tickets for the World Cup, watch matches together with other crazy football fans. Enjoy Germany's famous beers and share the joy of watching top-class football matches with friends.

FC Magnet Mitte

A fashionable football bar
Add: 26 Veteranen Str, Berlin
Tel: 49 (30) 4849 5049

Old Emerald Isle

An Irish pub, where a diverse range of people find each other in order to eat, drink and communicate, either outside in the quiet green beer-garden, or inside the pub in comfortable rooms.

Add: Erkelenzdam 49, 10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg
Tel: 49 (30) 615 69 17
Website: <http://www.old-emerald-isle.de/>

The Black Swan

Add: Leibniz Str. 81, 10625 Berlin
Tel: 49 (30) 3101 7614
Website: <http://www.blackswanberlin.com/>

Other famous spots

Brandenburg Gate

One million Berliners turned up to celebrate when the Brandenburg Gate was finally unveiled on 3 October 2002 following years of restoration work.

The 20-metre high monument, which never actually served as a gate, has graced the Pariser Platz since 1791. It was built by Carl Gotthard Langhans, who modelled it on the Propylaea gateway in Athens. Atop the historical monument on a four-horse chariot is the goddess of victory, the bringer of peace.

Napoleon, having conquered Berlin and not one to let humiliation lie, took the Quadriga to Paris in 1806. Eight years later, after the Wars of Liberation, the Quadriga returned to her throne above central Berlin. She was adorned with the Iron Cross, a laurel wreath and a Prussian eagle to commemorate the victory over Napoleon.

The Second World War was to see the Brandenburg Gate badly

damaged. The Quadriga, or 'Victoria', was restored by the East and West Berlin governments using old plaster models.

Location: Pariser Platz, in the Mitte District

Get there: Take S-Bahn 1 or 25 to the stop of Unter den Linden.

TV Tower

The tower was erected between 1966 and 1969, and at 365 meters tall can be seen from almost anywhere in the city. The 203 meter high viewing platform attracts many people on clear days. The lift then shoots them up to the top in only 40 seconds.

Location: Panoramastrasse 1a in the Mitte district

Open: 9 am - 1 am
Admission: 7 Euro

Get there: Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Alexander Square
Reichstag

The Reichstag building, home to the German parliament, was built between 1884 and 94. Its glass dome was erected in the mid-

1990s and since then the building has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Berlin.

Visitors queue for hours on end to walk the spiral ramp to the top of the dome. There is also a roof-top restaurant and great views onto the new government quarter.

Below is the parliamentary hall which has been open for debate since 1999. Torched in 1933 and damaged during the Battle of Berlin in 1945, the building was reconstructed between 1961 and 1972 and was home to a German history exhibition which today has been moved to the German Cathedral.

Location: Platz der Republik, Tiergarten

Open: 8 am - 12 am (Last admission is at 10 pm)

The Parliament Visitor Service organizes tours and entry to plenary sessions

Tel: 49 (30) 2273 2152
Get there: Take bus No.100 to Reichstag

By Lucky Zhang

How to care for your tattoo or piercing

What to know before you go under the needle

Whether you are watching NBA stars on the basketball court or strolling through your local shopping mall, it is not hard to find people who set themselves apart by altering their appearance with tattoos and piercing. Men and women have been decoratively piercing their skin for thousands of years, and the practice is going strong today.

But such body modification carries with it the risk of health problems ranging from minor bacterial infections to life-threatening illness. If you are considering a tattoo or piercing, understand the risks and research the process beforehand. Get your tattoo or piercing done correctly and use proper care afterward to reduce the risks involved.

Skin-deep: Tattoo and piercing basics

What exactly are these decorations, and how are they done? A tattoo is a permanent mark or design made on your body with pigments inserted into your skin through pricks in the skin's top layer. A needle that's connected to a small machine with tubes containing dye pierces the skin repeatedly, inserting tiny ink droplets with every puncture. The procedure, which may last up to several hours for a large tattoo, causes a small amount of bleeding and a level of pain that can vary from minor to significant.

Body piercing is traditionally done without any anesthesia to dull the pain. The practitioner pushes a hollow needle through a body part, then inserts a piece of jewelry into the hole. Some practitioners may use piercing guns, but these are difficult to sterilize and can more easily damage the skin. The ears are the most commonly pierced sites. Other sites include the eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue, nipples, navel and genitals.

The risks of body decorations

Tattooed artwork and piercing can come at a price. Body modification involves breaching one of your body's main protective barriers, the skin. Any time the needle pokes through your skin, you face the risk of an infection. And tattoo dyes and certain jewelry metals can cause skin reactions. Specific risks include:

Allergic reactions.

Tattoo dyes, particularly red dye, can cause allergic skin reactions, resulting in an itchy rash at the tattoo site. This may occur even years after you get the tattoo. Some piercing jewelry is made of nickel or brass, which also can cause allergic reactions.

Blood-borne diseases.

If the equipment used to do your tattoo or piercing is contaminated with an infected person's blood, you can contract a number of serious blood-borne diseases. These include hepatitis C, HIV, tetanus and tuberculosis.

Regret.

At some point, you may decide you do not want your tattoo anymore, for example, if it no longer fits your image or if it affects your career choices. Tattoo artwork may also blur or fade, and you may not be happy with its appearance.

Skin disorders.

Your body may form bumps called granulomas around tattoo ink, especially if your tattoo includes red ink. Tattooing can also cause areas of raised, excessive scarring (keloids), if you're prone to them. Keloids are more common in those with darker skin.

Skin infections.

Tattoos and piercing can lead to local bacterial infections. Typical symptoms of an infection include redness, warmth, swelling and a discharge containing pus.

Significant skin infections after tattooing are unusual. However, up to 30 percent of piercing result in such infections or bleeding. Navel piercing takes longer to heal, sometimes up to nine months, since sweat under tight clothing can keep the area damp, increasing bacteria. Infections from piercing in the upper ear cartilage are especially serious. Because cartilage does not have its own blood supply, taking antibiotics is often ineffective since the drug cannot travel to the infection site. Such infection can lead to cartilage damage and serious, permanent ear deformity.

Get the job done properly

If you are considering body modification, go to a reputable tattoo or piercing studio. A tattoo lasts forever, so you want to be sure they'll do a good job. Choose an establishment that is clean, tidy and orderly. Also look for and ask about the following:

An autoclave. An autoclave is a heat sterilization machine. It should be used to sterilize all non-disposable equipment after each customer.

Fresh equipment. Watch the tattoo artist and make sure he or she removes an unused needle and tubes from a sealed package before your procedure begins. Any pigments, trays and containers should be unused as well.

Commercial disinfectant or bleach solution. Instruments and supplies that cannot be sterilized with an autoclave should be disinfected with a commercial disinfectant or bleach solution after each use. These

include pigment bottles, drawer handles, tables and sinks.

Gloves. The artist must wash his or her hands and put on a fresh pair of latex gloves for each procedure. And those gloves should touch only you during the procedure. If the artist opens drawers or answers the phone while performing a procedure, they expose you to possible infection.

No piercing gun. Do not receive a piercing from a piercing gun. These devices typically cannot be autoclaved, which may increase your risk of infection. And such guns may crush your skin during the piercing, causing more injury.

Appropriate hypoallergenic jewelry. Brass and nickel jewelry can cause allergic reactions. Look for surgical-grade steel, titanium, 14- or 18-karat gold.

Any reputable piercer or tattoo parlor should be willing to discuss your health and safety issues. Ask plenty of questions about the qualifications and the cleanliness of the business. If the artist hesitates to answer your questions, take your business and your health elsewhere.



Take good care of your new artwork

Tattoo

Your tattoo artist should provide you with instructions on how to care for the body artwork afterward. These directions may require you to remove the dressing applied by the artist after a few hours; clean your tattoo regularly with soap and water, and then pat dry with a towel; and regularly apply a moisturizing product. In addition, avoid sun exposure during the first few weeks after your tattoo. Tattoos may take several days to heal. Do not pick at scabs, which can increase the risk of infection, damage the design and cause scar formation.

Piercing

Oral piercing (tongue or lip). Use an antibacterial, alcohol-free mouth rinse for 30 to 60 seconds after meals while your piercing heals. Use a new soft-bristled toothbrush after the piercing to avoid introducing bacteria into your mouth.

Skin piercing (nose, ears, eyebrow, navel). Clean the site with warm water and a cleanser once or twice a day; if you clean it more than that you will irritate it. Before cleaning, wash your hands with soap and water to reduce the risk of introducing bacteria to the site. Rinse the site in warm water and gently remove any crusting with a cotton swab.

Then apply a dab of a liquid medicated cleanser to the area. The piercer might recommend an over-the-counter option. Gently turn the jewelry back and forth to work the cleanser around the opening. Avoid alcohol and peroxide, as they can dry the skin, and avoid antibiotic ointments, which keep oxygen from reaching the piercing and can leave a sticky residue on the area.

What if you tire of your new look?

If you decide you no longer want your piercing or tattoo, you do have some options for removing them. Piercings often heal over, sometimes quickly, once you remove the jewelry that keeps the hole open. But know that tattoos are meant to be permanent, so complete removal of them is difficult. Several removal techniques exist, but regardless of the method used, scarring and skin color variations are likely to remain. Methods include:

Laser surgery. This is the most effective way to get rid of

a tattoo. Pulses of laser light break up the pigment in the tattoo and your body naturally processes it. You may require as many as 12 treatments over a year to reduce the appearance of the tattoo. The treatment might not be able to completely erase it. Black ink is the easiest to remove, and red and yellow are the most difficult.

Dermabrasion. The tattoo area is chilled until numb, and then the skin that contains the tattoo is sanded down to deeper levels. This

shouldn't be too painful, but it may leave a scar.

Excision. A doctor can surgically cut out the tattoo and stitch the edges back together, but this also can leave a scar.

A piercing or tattoo may take only a few minutes or a few hours to acquire, but invest plenty of thought and research before getting one. Take steps to protect yourself against possible risks so that what seems like a cool idea now doesn't turn into a source of regret later. (By Chu Meng)

Stage in June

Harlequin Rencontre
Zhong Kui by Didier Galas,
one man show in
French and Chinese



When: June 1 - 2
Where: Central Academy of
Drama

2006 French Piano Festival



When: June 2 - 4
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall

Concert Series by the China National Symphony Orchestra

When: June 3 - 17
Where: Beijing Concert Hall

**Performance by singers
from the
Moscow Theater**
When: June 10
Where: The Millennium Mon-
ument Concert Hall

**Aida by
Compagnia Marionettistica
Carlo Colla and Sons**
When: June 10 - 11
Where: Beijing Children's The-
ater

**Dance Drama
'Ma and Le Visiting the Sky'**
When: June 13 - 14
Where: Poly Theater

Ballet Giselle
When: June 28 - 29
Where: Tianqiao Theater

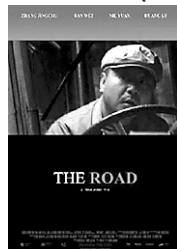
**'The Power of Beauty'
The 5th Anniversary of
Twelve Girls Band**
When: June 16
Where: Beijing Exhibition The-
ater

**2006 China International
Volleyball Match for
Women**
When: June 1 - 3
Where: Beijing Space and Avi-
ation University Gymnasium

Friday, May 26

Movie

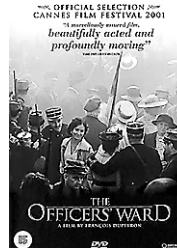
The Road (Fangxiang Zhilu)



The film is set
in a small south-
western town in the
heady 1960s. Fan
Wei plays a bus
driver who falls for
Chun Fen, the
pretty conductor on
his bus. The film
brings to life the
colors and sounds of life in China
during the Cultural Revolution. In Chi-
nese with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Anjia
Lou inside the Kent Centre, Chaoyang
When: 8pm, May 26 - 27
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

La Chambre des Officers



In the first days
of WWI. Adrien, a
young and hand-
some lieutenant, is
wounded by a
piece of shrapnel.
He consequently
spends the entire
war at the Val-de-
Grace Hospital, in
Paris. After five long years, his life will
change forever.

Where: French Cultural Center, 18
Guangcai International Apartment, West
Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, May 26 - 31
Admission: 10 - 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Exhibition

Solo Exhibition: Loris Cecchini



Where: Galleria
Continua, Dashanzi
art district, 4 jiu-
xianqiao Lu, Chaoy-
ang
When: 11am - 6pm, Tuesday - Sunday,
until June 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6436 1005

Jams

Afro-Caribbean Sounds

Where: Yugong Yishan, Chunxiu
Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6415 0687

Studio 54 Party

Where: Top Club and Lounge, 4/F,
Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoy-
ang
When: 10pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6413 1019

YEN 2nd Anniversary

Where: Tango Exhibition Hall, 79
Hepingli Xijie, at the south gate of
Ditan Park, Dongcheng
When: 9pm
Admission: 100 yuan
Tel: 6417 7793 6428 2288

Saturday, May 27

Music

2Kolegas' One Year Anniversary Party

Where: 2 Kolegas, 21 Liangmaqiao
Lu, Inside the Maple Drive-in (Qiche
Dianyingyuan), Chaoyang
When: 9pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8196 4820

Jeffrey Zhang and Shen Jing

The duo bring their toys: guitar,
lavalier mics, a Korg analog synth,
drums, effects and jams.

Where: D-22, 13 Cheng Fu Lu
(half-way between Wudaokou Subway
and Beijing University East Gate),
Haidian

When: 10pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Exhibition

Zou wei's oil paintings



Where:
Gallery
Beijing Space,
3818 Ware-
house, 2 jiu-
xianqiao Road,
Chaoyang

When: 10am - 6pm, until June 10
Admission: Free
Tel: 8041 7182

Jams

Involved Drum and Bass Party

Where: Top Club and Lounge, 4/F,
Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beilu, Cha-
oyang
When: 10pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6413 1019

Section 6 Party

A collection of DJs from Section
6's 'Goodie Basket'
Where: Yugong Yishan, Chunxiu
Lu, Chaoyang
When: 11pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6415 0687

Service

Garden Terrace 'Energy' Drinks



The re-open-
ing of Garden
Terrace means
you can enjoy a
full selection of
the latest
'energy' drinks
and other
healthy bever-
ages, all
designed to soothe, refresh and give
your body a boost.

Where: Beijing Shangri-La Hotel,
29 Zizhuyuan Road, Haidian
When: until June
Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 2723

Sunday, May 28

Music

Candy Gun Birthday Party

It's Zeng Yu's birthday and we're
all invited to join in the celebrations.

Where: Yugong Yishan, Chunxiu
Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6415 0687

Exhibition

At Night Oil Exhibition by Han Qing



Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dong-
bianmen Watchtower, Chongwen
When: 10am - 5pm, until June 18
Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005

Jams

Sundays on Top

Where: Top Club Terrace, 4/F,
Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoy-
ang
When: 3pm - 8pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6413 1019

Service

Mongolian BBQ Corner



Where: The Square, Novotel Peace
Hotel, No.3 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfu-
jing
When: Lunch, May 28
Tel: 6512 8833-769

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Reader competition

Five lucky readers can each win a facial photo-rejuvenation treatment session worth 1,000 yuan.

Read the following paragraph, answer the easy question below and email your answer to: btcompetition@ynet.com, before 12:00, Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

Bioscor International is a leader in cosmetic medi-

cine. Facial photo-rejuvenation targets pigmentation, fine lines, capillaries and other skin conditions.

For more information, contact: (010) 6503 5707, or visit: www.bioscor.com.cn

Question:

Where in Beijing can you get facial photo-rejuvenation treatment?



Special dish

La Palais desert & lounge

Start a relaxed weekend at Le Palais (Guanghualu, Chaoyang). Take advantage of our happy hour from 6 pm to 8 pm and our 7 pm special offer: two desserts and a bottle of Cinzano Prosecco Italian sparkling wine for just 240 RMB as part of our Cinzano Friday. Booking is highly recommended, the sooner the better. For details, call 6508 4209.

Special dish

Summer terrace (special dish)

With summer fast approaching, Jin Gu Cang Number 3 (Sanlitun, Chaoyang) will open up its terrace. While sitting outside sipping tea or coffee you can enjoy the beautiful gardens and also eat special summer dishes from the barbeque. For details, call Sasi on 13671325635.

10% Off

Ibiza Spirit Club (10% off)

Over the spring and summer all drinks and food at Ibiza Club (Hepingli Dongjie, Chaoyang) are discounted. This Spanish-style electronic music club is famous for its Spanish DJs, musicians and Latin dance music. For details, call 8425 8888.



10% Off

Chain Cool restaurant

The only prison-style restaurant in Beijing (Xiaoyun Qiao, Dongsihuan, Chaoyang) is cutting 10 per cent off its prices. You can even suggest names for dishes, which the chefs will then consider using. For details, call 8451 3456 or 845 15678.



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Photo-rejuvenation

Target pigmentation, fine lines, capillaries and other skin conditions. Stimulates collagen.

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A quick and effective way to remove unwanted hair using non-invasive light therapy.

Thread lift

A mini non-surgical facelift where no skin is cut away. Targets problem areas using a minimally invasive procedure, using threads under the skin.



- Hair Regrowth
- Skin Management
- Anti-Ageing
- Cosmetic Surgery



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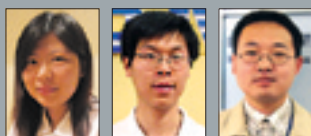
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My IBM intern story



By Han Manman

Every year, tens of thousands of undergraduates and postgraduates send their resumes to IBM to apply for an internship position at this top, global IT company. From the thousands of entrees just a handful are ever selected.

We feature three successful interns this week. Two of them received full-time job offers just last month and the other one will be signing up in July. Below they tell us about their experiences working as interns at IBM and their bosses tell why they were offered jobs and what they have brought to the company.

Comments from the HR department

One of the reasons for IBM to choose Liu Jing was because of her maturity. She was very mature compared with other interns of her age. We observed her during her internship and her levelheaded approach to things and her toughness impressed us. Liu was a student leader on campus and her excellent communication skills and responsible attitude reflect that. During her internship, we offered her the chance to participate in some practical tasks and gave her the chance to take charge of some work alone. What she achieved was beyond our expectations. She also has a strong feeling for the market. All of these things made her an ideal choice for IBM.



Comments from the HR department

Li Ke is sincere and easily gains the trust of his colleagues. He is a quick learner and is very proactive. IBM puts a great deal of emphasis on the intern's problem-solving skills. Li Ke does this well. When we gave him a tricky task, he would think about it first and try to find a way to solve any problems. IBM welcomes people who try to learn new things and have good communication skills.



Li Ke: Currently working as an intern and will be getting an offer this July after being awarded a master's degree in Electronic Engineering from Tsinghua University. I am currently studying Automatic Speech Recognition and that's also the area I'm working on at IBM. I guess the main reason for IBM choosing me is because my major matched the job. For technical workers, if your major matches the job you have applied for, the chances of your being selected will be far greater.

My interview focused on technical questions such as what kind of work I'd done at university

and graduate school and what I achieved. I remember the interviewer asking me what I would do if the company had developed a new technology that was ready for practical applications. The first choice was to go on researching it in the lab until it is ready for the market or to put it on the market. Immediately, I didn't have any intern experience and, until then, had spent most of my time on campus, which made my world narrow, so I answered that I would continue research. In fact, lots of new technology needs to be given input by the market. That means we should learn from the market feedback and improve the tech-

nology according to the feedback. The interview taught me to think outside of the box, not just to look at things on one level. On my first day as an intern I was asked to do very little. My mentor told me some basic company information and told me what I should prepare for and what kind of work I would be doing. Before I came here, I thought the company would be a very serious place. But life at IBM is very different from what I had imagined. My colleagues are very passionate and active; we can even play basketball at the court near our office if we want to relax in the afternoon.

Liu Jing: Works in the IT technical service department, was awarded a master's degree in software and theory for computers at Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2005 and joined IBM last month after a six month internship.

I was selected to join the IBM Blue Pathway Internship Program last July as an intern from 20,000 candidates.

When I was a student I did an internship at Microsoft Corporation's HR department. My boss hoped I would stay on after I got my masters degree but I felt I needed more challenges and more room for my future development which I felt HR work could not give me. So, I applied for the IBM intern position. I wanted to push myself to my full potential and also find out why the company was held in such high regard by so many people. I was interviewed for the position by the president of IBM China. During the one-hour interview he tried to make me stressed by talking about all the problems and tough challenges I would face if I joined IBM. He also talked about the severe competition in the company and how it would be especially difficult for a girl. By observing my reactions, he got an insight into my character and working ability. I remember answering that I was a person who stuck to my word

and took responsibility for things and that if I accepted the work, I would try my best to do it well.

Although I was really nervous during the interview, I tried to keep smiling. I made up my mind that I had come to the right place, because I was keen for a challenge.

The department I was placed in as an intern is also the one I am now working for. It is an important department at IBM. My colleagues are experienced and skilled. The first week was very tough. I didn't know what I should be doing and how I should get involved with the team. My mentor was very nice, he told me not to expect to learn everything overnight. I needed to learn by observing what my colleagues were doing and learn to ask them if they needed any help. I gradually became familiar with the workflow and got more involved.

After the internship, I was confident that I would get the job. I tried to develop myself as much as possible outside of university. I participated in many activities. You cannot know what kind of people society needs and what values you can bring to the company if you only immerse yourself in books. I also worked for four years as an assistant at the university, which fostered my leadership and problem-solving skills. I think all of those things helped me get the job.

Comments from the HR department:

Cao Nan is willing to take up challenges. He immediately joined our intern project when he arrived in Beijing before even having arranged his new life in the capital. He did extremely well as a team leader. He has the ability to adapt to new environments at work and outside of work. He is also very enthusiastic about his work, which is a very important element of doing a good job.



Cao Nan: Works in the IBM Chinese Research Lab (CRL), was awarded a master's degree in computer from Northwestern Polytechnical University in 2005 and joined IBM last month after a six month internship.

I heard about IBM's recruitment of new interns by chance. I was studying in another province where there was very little information about the intern-

ship scheme. When I heard the news I signed up straight away. My first interview went smoothly and the second interview was over the telephone. I felt the interviewer was very satisfied with me. I was selected to join an IBM international summer intern project called Extreme Blue, which worked on leading technology and business plans for new products. Nearly 30

interns were divided into four teams and each team focused on a different project. I was the technical head of our team, a role that was very challenging. I had to consider how to proceed with the different projects and how to get all the team members working together. Lacking experience, I didn't do very well at the beginning. My mentor gave me lots of help. He shared his leadership experience with me. IBM

is very strict. During our project procedure, some IBM staff often came and reviewed our work and asked some challenging questions. Sometimes they gave us negative evaluations, putting everybody into a bad mood. It was down to me to boost their moral. Finally, we achieved something by getting two American patents. God helps those who help themselves. There are three reasons why I think IBM chose

me. I am good at adapting to different situations. I don't care if my boss suddenly gives me another research project to work on that I'm not familiar with. I will learn quickly and adjust myself to it. I participated in many competitions when I was a student and I developed a very competitive streak. I also work hard and take my work seriously. During my internship, I had to work until 12 pm everyday.



The main building on the campus

Photos provided by the University of Silesia

University of Silesia to start Chinese language courses

By Chen Shasha

A new Chinese language course will open at the University of Silesia's faculty of Philology from the academic year 2006/2007, according to Adam Kurzeja, head of the Department of Foreign Relations, University of Silesia, Poland.

It is part of new services for overseas Chinese students included in the free summer school at the university this August. The summer school of Polish Language and Culture opens for two Chinese students from the Chair of Polish Language of the Faculty of European Languages at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. The summer school will take place in August 2006 at Cieszyn, a picturesque, old town at the foot of the Beskid Mountains on the border of Poland and the Czech Republic.

As one of the largest Universities in Poland, the University of Silesia has 106 agreements of scientific and educational cooperation with universities and other research institutions from 32 countries.

Q: How many faculties in your school are open to Chinese students? What are the academic strengths of the university?

A: All the 12 faculties are open to Chinese students, including Social Sciences, Classic, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Protection, Art, Law and Administration.

The academic achievements of selected faculties for 2005 are as follows:

1, The discovery of natural scandium garnet by the Faculty of Earth Sciences.

2, Research into Synthetic Derivatives Porphyry leading to the creation of a Polish medicine against cancer (Faculties of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.)

3, Third Prize for the Polish Academy for the project: Invariant measures for non-expansive Markov operators on Polish spaces – adaptation of chemometrics methods to analytical chemistry, identification of proteins and analysis of faraway objects data.

As well as the above-mentioned, the faculties also have the highest rate of full-time professors and the right to grant the research title Doctor Habilitation, the highest earned academic degree, which requires the pursuit of original research. It can be offered only to PhD degree holders.

Q: Your school's admission deadline this year is June 30. Could you tell us about the application procedure and the scholarship system?

A: The Admission procedures are as follows:

1, Write an application letter to the Rector of the University of Silesia addressed to The Department of Foreign Relations, ul. Bankowa 12, Katowice 40-007, Poland.

2, Fill in the application form which is available on our website



Adam Kurzeja



The residential part of the campus

<http://www.english.us.edu.pl>

3, All documents delivered to the University of Silesia must be in Polish or in English; all Chinese original documents must be translated into Polish or English.

The following documents should be enclosed with the letter:

1, Legalized at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at one of the Polish Consular Offices, an original or notarized copy of a certificate issued by the appropriate central or local department of education subordinate to the Chinese Ministry of Education, proving that the enclosed Certificate Diploma entitles the holder to apply for certain specialized courses at Chinese universities

2, Current health certificate issued by SOS or Vista Clinic certifying that there are no health constraints that would stop the student studying as well as a current immunization certificate (including A plus B Jaundice and Tuberculosis vaccinations). The immunization certificate must be obtained at one of the Polish Consular Offices in Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou.

3, Students should receive a promise of acceptance from the university.

4, Fax or send a copy of the receipt of payment to the Department of Foreign Relations.

5, Students should be prepared to pay an additional accommodation and maintenance costs of 250- 300 EUR per month. The university will assist students in

finding accommodation on the University campuses.

International students are entitled to receive a scholarship, equal to the one available to Polish students, if they're exam results are good enough.

Q: Does your university cooperate with Chinese universities?

A: The University of Silesia co-operates with Chinese partners. We had 22 visits from Chinese partners during 2005. There were 11 participants/students at the School of Polish Language and Culture, nine researchers, teachers and officials and two people are actually working at the university as teaching staff. It is also worth mentioning that four joint research projects have been carried out with Chinese researchers.

At present, the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection is working with Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, represented by the President Prof. Dr Han Guig-ing in order to establish an agreement of co-operation between the two institutions.

Q: Are there any services offered to international students?

A: Chinese students will take part in practice/training at institutions and firms in the region when required. We also offer all international students whose first language is not Polish a possibility to improve their Polish language in the School of Polish Language and Culture.

► Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Searching Chinglish in Beijing

By Dai Xiaoling
(Student of Beijing University of Technology)

We students join the activity held by our school for searching chinglish signs in Beijing this May. All of us volunteers were divided into five groups in terms of color: Yellow, Red, Green, Black and White. You see, they are the Olympic five rings' color. And I belong to the Yellow Group.

We set out on a windy Sunday. And our destination is the Dawang road. At the beginning, we didn't find any valuable mistakes. Maybe we didn't come into condition at that time. But after some minutes, when the road sign was found as "Zhenzhi lu", we began our work really.

The most frequently fault is

the way of expression of the street on the sign. Some of them used as "Lu", and some are "Street", and so on. When we went back to school and looked for the right answer, we knew the correct usage is "rd" which is admitted in law.

A funny mistake was found at a toilet. The sign of sexual distinction used as "Man" and "Female". We can see that "man" and "woman" is an odd number word. And toilet is not a single room but a public one. So we don't think these words were suit to be used there. And in our opinion, there should change by "Men" and "Women" for the better.

Another using ways pass comprehension was found at the banks. Actually, I mean the self-

service bank. We pass by three banks in all, and they used three different ways of expressions: Self-Bank, Self-servicing Bank and Self servicing Bank. We can understand both of them, but I think the banks as an important financial intermediary should be unified their way of convey.

And the worst of all, is the wrong spellings. Such as "coffe", "massage" and so on.

On our trip, we were looking for our target carefully. When we got wrong usage, we talk about how to correct it. And if we found some funny wrong usage, we may laugh at it with a little sad. Anyway, we hope this activity should make some changes really. In sum, our desire is making Beijing more and more beautiful by ourselves.

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see some chinglish signs, please take a picture and send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



An unfriendly sign at the playground

By Philip Space

You would be hard pushed to find a more amusing playground sign. Peppered with Chinglish and written in a style more suited to a prison gate than a play area, it would be enough to put off most parents. But here's how it could be made more family friendly...

An adult while using must accompany children less than 1 meter high.

Change this to: **Children under one meter must be accompanied by an adult.**

Children with dementia and ill kids are forbidden to use.

Ideally, this tasteless phrase would be cut out completely. But if the park authorities insist on keeping out 'ill kids', a better way to phrase their demand would be as follows: **For their own safety, children suffering from dementia should not use the playground equipment.**

Should normally operate all kinds of equipment, forbidden any violent operation phenomena of facilities.

This is so badly written it's hard to know where to start. How about this? **Do not vandalize the equipment.**

Anyone violating the above instructions should be responsible for any damage and injury.

A better way to phrase this would be: **Anyone who violates the above instructions will be held responsible for any damage or injury.**



China smoke and wines

By Philip Space

Ok, so we're getting picky – it's obvious to anyone what this shop sells. But we're in the business of being pedantic, so we're going to suggest a better way to name this local booze and ciggie shop: **Chinese cigarettes and wines.**

(By Chen Shasha)

Edmond's comments

(Edmond Backhouse is a foreign expert of Beijing Today)

The worst of all, is the wrong spellings', our author boldly announces. I'm not sure if I agree with it; I can more easily forgive a typo than the overall failure to write clearly. Yet in these days of automatic spell checking, it really is unforgivable to find on opening a document words underlined in red, and when one's subject is a critique of poor English, one would be expected to pay attention to such a simple point.

The author offers two examples of misspelling: the second, 'massage', is in fact spelled correctly, unless it is in error for 'message'. Since the author doesn't make this clear, we cannot know, and the generally poor quality of the writing does not allow us to give them the benefit of the doubt.

For me the worst aspects of this piece are the poor grammar and the use of Chi-

nese idioms in direct translation.

Almost every verb phrase contains a mistake. Sometimes the verb does not agree with its subject, often the tense is wrong, and phrasal verbs are used without the correct preposition or adverb. We can see this in the opening sentence: the verb 'join' either does not agree with its subject or is in the wrong tense, since we are speaking about the past; 'searching' is used without the required preposition 'for'. The sentence could have been more happily written as 'This May, my fellow students and I took part in an activity held by our school in which we searched for poorly written English signs in Beijing'. Note that the time expression, placing the action in May, has been brought to the beginning. This is usually the best place for it.

The author uses the word 'and' to start a sentence several times. Good writers can do this for effect, but non-

native speakers should avoid using 'and' at the start of the sentence as they will invariably use it incorrectly (as in this article).

The use of Chinese idioms directly translated into English, such as 'maybe we didn't come into condition', which I am guessing is from the Chinese 'meiyou jinru zhuangtai', is meaningless at best and often just confusing. If you don't know an appropriate English idiom, just say what you want to say in clear and simple language.

Grammar is the system and structures of the language; failure to use it correctly is often ugly and frequently leads to misunderstanding. Non-native writers, especially beginners, are best advised to keep things simple and to pay attention to small details – once you have a solid grasp of the basics it will be safer to move on to more complex constructions.

Friends: The Pilot



Friends: The Pilot
(Episode 1.01, 1994)

Starring:
Courteney Cox,
Jennifer Aniston,
David Schwimmer

Directed by
James Burrows

Written by
Marta Kauffman
&
David Crane

Synopsis:
This is the one that sees it all begins. Rachel leaves Barry at the altar and moves in with Monica. Monica goes on a date with Paul, the wine guy, who turns out to be less than sincere. Ross is depressed about his failed marriage. Joey compares women to ice cream. Everyone watches Spanish soaps. Ross reveals his high school crush on Rachel.



Scene 1: Central Park. (All present except Rachel and Ross)

MONICA: There's nothing to tell! He's just some guy I work with!

JOEY: C'mon, you're going out with the guy! There's gotta be something wrong with him!

CHANDLER: So does he have a hump⁽¹⁾? A hump and a hairpiece⁽²⁾?

PHOEBE: Wait, does he eat chalk?

(The others stare, bemused⁽³⁾)

PHOEBE: Just, 'cause, I don't want her to go through what I went through with Carl – oh!

MONICA: Okay, everybody relax. This is not even a date. It's just two people going out to dinner and – not having sex.

CHANDLER: Sounds like a date to me.

(CUT TO SAME SET)

CHANDLER: Alright, so I'm back in high school, I'm standing in the middle of the cafeteria, and I realize I am totally naked.

ALL: Oh, yeah. Had that dream.

CHANDLER: Then I look down, and I realise there's a phone... there.

JOEY: Instead of...?

CHANDLER: That's right.

JOEY: Never had that dream.

PHOEBE: No.

CHANDLER: All of a sudden, the phone starts to ring. And it turns out it's my mother, which is very weird, because – she never calls me!

(CUT TO SAME SET. ROSS HAS NOW ENTERED)

ROSS: (MORTIFIED) Hi.

JOEY: This guy says hello, I wanna kill myself.

MONICA: Are you okay, sweetie?

ROSS: I just feel like someone reached down my throat, grabbed my small intestine, pulled it out of my mouth and tied it around my neck...

CHANDLER: Cookie?

MONICA: (EXPLAINING TO THE OTHERS) Carol moved her stuff out today. (TO ROSS) Let me get you some coffee.

PHOEBE: Ooh! Oh! (STARTS TO PLUCK AT THE AIR JUST IN FRONT OF ROSS)

ROSS: No, no don't! Stop cleansing my aura! No, just leave my aura alone, okay? I'll be fine, alright? Really, everyone. I hope she'll be very happy.

MONICA: No you don't.

ROSS: No I don't, to hell with her, she left me!

JOEY: And you never knew she was a lesbian...

ROSS: No!! Okay?! Why does everyone keep fixating on⁽⁴⁾ that? She didn't know, how should I know?

CHANDLER: Sometimes I wish I was a lesbian... (THE OTHERS STARE AT HIM) Did I say that out loud?

JOEY: Alright Ross, look. You're feeling a lot of pain right now. You're angry. You're hurting. Can I tell you what the answer is?

(ROSS GESTURES HIS CONSENT)

JOEY: Strip joint⁽⁵⁾! C'mon, you're single! Have some hormones!

ROSS: I don't want to be single, okay? I just... I just – I just wanna be married again!

(ENTER RACHEL IN A WET WEDDING DRESS. SHE STARTS TO SEARCH AROUND THE ROOM)

CHANDLER: And I just want a million dollars! (EXTENDS HIS HAND HOPEFULLY)

MONICA: Rachel?!

RACHEL: Oh God Monica hi! I just went to your building and you weren't there and then this guy with a big hammer said you might be here and you are, you are!

WAITRESS: Can I get you some coffee?

MONICA: (POINTING AT RACHEL) De-caff⁽⁶⁾. (TO THE GANG) Okay, everybody, this is Rachel, another Lincoln High survivor. (TO RACHEL) This is everybody, this is Chandler, and Phoebe, and Joey, and – you remember my brother Ross?

RACHEL: Hi, sure!

ROSS: Hi.

(THEY GO TO HUG BUT ROSS' UMBRELLA OPENS. HE SITS, DEFEATED AGAIN)

(A MOMENT OF SILENCE AS RACHEL SITS; THE OTHERS EXPECT HER TO EXPLAIN)

MONICA: So you wanna tell

us now, or are we waiting for four wet bridesmaids?

RACHEL: Oh God... well, it started about a half hour before the wedding. I was in the room where we were keeping all the presents, and I was looking at this gravy boat. This really gorgeous Lamauge gravy boat. When all of a sudden – (TO WAITRESS, WHO HAS BROUGHT HER COFFEE) Sweet 'n' Lo? – I realized that I was more turned on⁽⁷⁾ by this gravy boat than by Barry! And then I got really freaked out⁽⁸⁾, and that's when it hit me: how much Barry looks like Mr. Potato Head. Y'know, I mean, he always looked familiar, but... Anyway, I just had to get out of there, and I started wondering 'Why am I doing this, and who am I doing this for?' (TO MONICA) So anyway I just didn't know where to go, and I know that you and I have kinda⁽⁹⁾ drifted apart, but you're the only person I knew who lived here in the city.

MONICA: Who wasn't invited to the wedding.

RACHEL: Ooh, I was kinda hoping that wouldn't be an issue...

(By Chen Shasha)

Vocabulary

1. **hump**: = humpback, a person whose back is hunched because of abnormal curvature of the upper spine.

2. **hairpiece**: a covering or bunch of human or artificial hair used to hide baldness. Also called a wig.

3. **bemused**: bewildered;

confused.

4. **fixated on**: thinking, talking, etc. continuously about one particular thing, so as not to give enough attention to anything else.

5. **strip joint**: a club which people go to in order to see striptease acts.

6. **De-caff**: drink that has had caffeine removed.

7. **turned on**: sexually aroused.

8. **freak out**: (cause to) become greatly excited or anxious, esp. because of drugs.

9. **kinda**: rather, kind of, sort of.

